

UC Personal Statement
Peer Edit/Response #2

Personal Info:

1. "What do we know about you?" Did the writer answer the questions? How well did the writer take advantage of the prompts to give you a well-rounded picture of him/her? (1-5 with 5 being the best.)
Review topics + rationale for questions 1 & 2. Is #3 necessary? why?
2. How much of the essays rely on what the writer has done? How much relies on what the writer has gained? Is it about band, swimming, MUN, etc. or about the impact and what the writer has gained from the experience that no other member of that team/group/organization could say. Why did they do what they did? Can you see it through their eyes?
3. Did the writer distinguish himself/herself from other applicants? Do they sound like all the rest? *Unique? Were you surprised?*
4. List three words to describe the applicant. What do the essays reveal about the writer's personality? Beliefs? Talents?
5. How personal and authentic is the writer's voice/style? Does it sound like him/her? Is it a real and honest portrayal? Does it sound too bland? Too phony? Too intellectual? Too informal? Do you feel like you know them? Do you like the writer? Are they bragging? Whining? Complaining? Seeking sympathy? Exaggerating? Do the essays want to make you want to read more?
6. Can you identify a theme in each essay? Is there a thread that runs through all three? Is any info. repeated in 3 essays?

Structure and Style:

7. Does the first sentence captivate the reader?
8. Does the introduction engage the reader?
9. Can you identify the thesis or theme of each essay? Is it just an excuse to list accomplishments?
10. Can you identify the topic sentence/purpose of each paragraph?
11. Does the writer use concrete details and experiences to support the topic sentence and focus?
12. How insightful and personal is the commentary? Do you feel what the writer is feeling and thinking then and now?
13. Any clichés, empty phrases, or sentences such as "Basically," "The fact of the matter is," "It made me who I am today," "I learned a lot," "It really helped/taught me," and "... to grow/mature/prepare me...."
14. How does it read? Does it flow? Does it seem like it takes forever to get through? Can any sentences be combined, shortened, eliminated? Every sentence is crucial. Any errors in grammar or mechanics?
15. Eliminate wordiness. Can it be said in fewer words? Is it full of fluff and padding? Think like a poet. Be concise and profound.
16. Active voice? How many verbs of being (is, are, was, were, etc) need to be eliminated? Any overused words? Is the language vibrant and colorful or bland and tired?
17. Does the sentence structure vary throughout the essay? Openings? Length? Closings? Separate subject and verbs? Open with phrases and clauses? Start with ING form of the verb.
18. Can you identify transitions in the essay? Does it need some (logical, temporal, spatial, chronological)?
19. Does the conclusion avoid summary? Does it expand on broader implications of your discussion? Does it connect to opening in any way? End with a quote, metaphor, analogy, or reference?
20. Could the essay be organized in a better way? How?

Overall Impression:

21. What is the most memorable line of each essay? Should that be placed somewhere else? Opening? Closing?
22. What is the worst part/paragraph of each essay? Which parts/paragraphs of each essay need more support and elaboration?
23. Which parts/paragraphs are the most memorable? Why?
24. Which essay needs the most work? Why?