

*This message is being sent on behalf of Katie Killeen, President, Georgia PTA Higher Education PTSA*

## **How to Create an Effective College Essay?**

Although the **Georgia PTA's Higher Education PTSA** is a fairly new movement and has not been around very long, we are trying very hard to create initiatives that will go a long way in enriching the lives of children. We are serious about the PTA Mission: *"To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."* The majority of the Higher Education team members are currently in college, so we *"have been there and done that."* We know exactly what is involved in the process of preparing for college entry, and we know what works and what does not work. We want to be a part of the efforts and initiatives that will *set you up for success*. You have been receiving e-blasts from us; you will also find that those same important messages are being posted to the Georgia PTA website; to Georgia PTA's Facebook page and also Tweeted out. Please be on the lookout for more in the months to come.

We think that you will find today's tips to be very helpful as you continue on your journey to make every *"child's potential a reality."* We are not just reaching out to high school seniors, their parents/counselors, but we believe that this can be of benefit to younger high school aged kids (sophomores and juniors). The deadline to submit college applications has not passed at many colleges. ***"5 Tips to Trim Your College Essay"*** is a "must have" guide that was created by an expert in the field of effective writing, **Kim Lifton, President of the Wow Writing Workshop, LLC.** (800-497-WRITE)

[www.wowwritingworkshop.com](http://www.wowwritingworkshop.com)

### **5 Tips to Trim Your College Essay**

**By Kim Lifton  
President  
Wow Writing Workshop**

Here are five simple tips for trimming personal statements and supplemental essays without destroying their content:

- 1. Circle or highlight all adverbs. Take them out. These include "very" and many "ly" words, such as really, extremely, completely and absolutely.**
- 2. Look for a single word or short phrase followed by a comma. These include because of this, in fact, first, last, hopefully, to be frank, quite frankly and in conclusion. Highlight the words or phrases, then read the sentences without them. Take out the ones that do not enhance your story.**

3. Delete helping verbs. Example: Replace "is going to be attending" with "will attend."
4. Delete to be verbs. Rather than saying "I am a voracious reader," try "I read voraciously."
5. Turn some nouns into verbs: "I concluded" is better than "I came to the conclusion."

**After you trim that essay, there's one more thing to do before clicking send: review it!**

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