

Dos and Don'ts

Do:

Be yourself, be authentic, be honest

Answer the prompt, use examples and specifics

Engage the reader, let them see who you are

Be thoughtful; it will show if you have not truly considered your reasoning or purpose for applying

Have it read and reviewed! Enlist professors, friends, peers, family members, ONSF, and Writing Studio

Read your work aloud – it is **THE MOST HELPFUL** step

Don'ts:

Repeat yourself

Overstate your accomplishments

Use famous quotations

Use overly flowery or dense academic language; this is not an academic paper

Be overly casual either, no slang, no jargon

Write only to the word limit and stop – in fact, when drafting, don't worry about the word limit at all

Be afraid to ask for feedback