

Not only is the college essay a place to showcase writing skills, but it's also one of the only parts of a college application

Unlike test scores and transcripts, the college admissions

Prospective college students want their essay- sometimes called a personal statement- to make a good impression and boost their chances of being accepted, but they have only several hundred words to make that happen.

This can feel like a lot of pressure.

1. Brainstorm a topic:

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Tips for writing the essay from the College Board: