



# DORINE JENNETTE

PHD, MFA

WRITER & EDITOR

- Youth science journals such as [The Triple Helix Online](#)
- Math journals such as [Pi in the Sky](#)
- Youth magazines such as [Imagine Magazine](#) (published by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth)
- Youth literary journals such as [Sprout](#) and [CrashTest](#)
- Various local newspapers

## Success Stories:

### Students Admitted To (Universities)

- Stanford
- Cornell
- Columbia
- Yale
- UChicago
- MIT
- UC Berkeley, UCLA
- UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz
- Santa Clara University
- Georgetown
- USC
- Carnegie Mellon

### Services for High School Students

- College Application Essays
- Summer Program Application Essays
- Writing for Publication
- Hourly Tutoring

### Professional Background

Dorine Jennette holds an MFA in Poetry from New Mexico State University, and a PhD in English from the University of Georgia. She is a writer and editor with

experience in creative, academic, and business settings. While serving as an Admissions Advisor and the Director of Communications for IvyClimbing Education Services, she recognized the need for a writing-focused admissions service. Dr. Jennette now draws on her varied experiences in writing, teaching, and editing to help students write for publication and write spectacular college admissions essays.

## Success Stories:

### Students Admitted To (Summer Programs)

- Iowa Young Writers' Studio
- Stanford Humanities Institute
- Stanford Institutes of Medicine Summer Research Program (SIMR)
- Science Internship Program (SIP) at UC Santa Cruz
- Simons Summer Research Program at Stony Brook University

- Author of *Urchin to Follow*, with publications in literary journals such as *Ninth Letter*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Terrain.org*, and the *Georgia Review*.
- Copyeditor for the *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and of books for university presses such as the University of Georgia Press and the University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Teacher of writing classes in settings including the University of Georgia; the University of California, Davis, Extension; and community arts workshops.

## Success Stories:

### Student Publications In

### More Information

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# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS: AN OVERVIEW OF MY STRATEGIC APPROACH

*Save Time and Energy While Getting a Yes! from More Schools*

**Situation:** You've added it up, and you've realized that to complete all your college applications, you'll need to write approximately . . . one million essays.

**Problem:** Don't do it! No one can write that many essays well, especially while also keeping up with school and extracurricular activities. You'll end up submitting reams of first drafts that you wrote late at night, which is no way to submit high-quality essays—or to get high-quality sleep!

**Solution:** With pointers from me, you can write a small core group 4 to 6 fabulous, *recyclable* admissions essays. (Note: admissions essays are different from what you are used to writing for class. And, luckily, more fun. Check out the example on the next page.) After sustained, strategic brainstorming, you can draft, revise, and polish a core group of essays that you can use again and again. With these core essays plus a polished academic resume (which is different from a professional resume, so pay attention later when you get to the resume section), you've completed a huge chunk of your applications, no matter where you end up applying. This way, you submit higher-quality essays with less stress—and you're more likely to hear "yes" from your favorite schools.

**Bonus:** During this process, you'll master a writing process that will help you enjoy your first year of college as a confident learner, instead of crashing and burning in that infamous freshman composition course or Western Civ class. Many students flail their freshman year as they struggle to bridge the gap between high-school and college-level work, especially when it comes to writing. Why flail when you can sail? Learn strategies to become a more effective, efficient communicator now, and it will benefit your college search as well as your college experience.

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS:

## WHAT IS A NARRATIVE ESSAY?

*Wake up readers and make a personal connection.*

### **Opening Lines of an Essay in Resume Style:**

Last summer, I completed a research internship for the Stanford Institutes of Medicine Summer Research Program (SIMR) while also working at Jamba Juice. I learned a lot about prenatal medicine, but more importantly, I learned a lot about economic class in America.

### **Same Opening in Narrative Style:**

2 strawberries, 2 mangos, 1 kale, ice, 1 pineapple hardback . . . etc.

I studied my manager's list of supplies as I pulled on my empty cart . . . I dashed to the many refrigerators, grabbing ingredients.

Last one: "1 pineapple hardback." I couldn't find the darn tub of sherbet. What about the walk-in freezer? Opening the vault-like door, I used my cart to prop the freezer open.

. . . Aha, finally!

Dusting off the ice-covered tub, I turned to go—but the cart had rolled away, and the door closed, trapping me in the freezer! I suppressed a scream as my hands scabbled over the crevices outlining the handle-less door. *Noooooooo. How long will it be before they send help? What if I die here?* I was pounding on the door, when suddenly, it opened. Apparently, I just had to push it hard.

That's right. I'm a minimum wage worker at Jamba Juice who faced a near-death experience in a freezer . . .

### **What Are the Benefits of Writing Narrative Essays for College Admissions?**

First, the narrative essay is more fun to read. Did you know that UCLA received almost 120,000 applications for fall 2016? So, how can you get readers' attention? Tell a story. Then, reflect upon your experience to demonstrate your perspective and your critical thinking skills. Along the way, if you completed a competitive research internship, say so. But don't spend your precious essay time just listing accomplishments! That's what your resume is for. See next page.

### **Does This Really Work?**

I wrote the resume-style prose above. The narrative-style prose is excerpted from the Common App essay of a student who got in to Yale, Columbia, MIT, and top UCs . . . Yeah, it works.

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS:

## WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC RESUME?

### *Make your accomplishments easy and exciting to read*

**It's Not a Regular Resume:** When adult professionals hear the word *resume*, they usually think of a one-page document listing their most recent, relevant skills and work experiences.

**It's Like What a Professor Uses:** A high school student's academic resume for college admissions is closer to an academic's curriculum vitae, or CV: this ginormous document lists everything the scholar has ever published, presented, taught, etc.

**Plus, It's All-Inclusive:** A high school student's academic resume might combine music performances, club leadership positions, summer academic programs, travel, languages, personal hobbies . . . everything! This document gives admissions readers a portrait of how a student has developed her interests and how she spends her time.

### **Where Do I Put an Academic Resume in My College Application?**

Many schools now allow students to upload a resume with their application. Alternately, many applications include an "Additional Information" field. A carefully edited resume is one strategic way to use this space.

### **What is the Benefit of Including an Academic Resume in My College Application?**

When admissions readers can see your accomplishments in your resume, you don't need to repeat all your accomplishments in your essays, which frees you up to do more storytelling about your key experiences. This way, admissions readers learn more about you with less effort and more sense of connection to you as a person.

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS:

## WHAT KINDS OF ESSAYS DO YOU NEED?

### Common App Schools:

- Personal Statement: 1 x 650 words
- Writing Supplement Essays: X x Y words per school. Highly variable. Each school requests its own number of essays and assigns the word count per essay.
- Resume: 1 x 650 words for the “Additional Information” section.

### Non-Common-App Schools:

Some schools, like MIT and Georgetown, do not use the Common Application. They have their own online forms, and their own essay requirements. Yet with some exceptions (see my À La Carte Essays menu, below), their essay prompts overlap with the Common App schools and the UCs, so essays can be recycled for both Common App and Non-Common-App schools.

### UCs:

- New! Personal Insight Essays: 4 x 350-word essays. These “personal insight questions” replace the personal statement prompts as of applications for fall 2017.
- Resume: 1 x 550-word for the “Additional Information” section.

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS: SERVICE PACKAGES

*\*All packages are billed at a discounted hourly rate relative to hourly tutoring.*

## **BASIC PACKAGE: 4 CORE ESSAYS & 1 RESUME FOR COMMON APP SCHOOLS AND NON-COMMON-APP SCHOOLS**

*Brainstorming, interviewing, notetaking, reviewing model essays, drafting, revising, revising, revising, polishing:*

- Long Essays: 2 x 650 words max.: Life experiences, challenges, may incorporate academic interest areas or not
- Short Essays: 2 x 150–250 words max.:
  - 1 on “formal” activities (e.g., music performance, basketball, school newspaper)
  - 1 on “informal” activities (e.g., custom-painting high-top sneakers)
- Resume: 1 x 650 words max. for the Common App, or 550 words max. if you want it already cut to fit the Common App and the UC app

*\$2350*

## **EXTENDED PACKAGE: 6 CORE ESSAYS & 1 RESUME FOR COMMON APP SCHOOLS AND NON-COMMON-APP SCHOOLS**

*Brainstorming, interviewing, notetaking, reviewing model essays, drafting, revising, revising, revising, polishing:*

- Long Essays: 2 x <650 words: Life experiences, challenges, may incorporate academic interest areas or not
- Short Essays: 4 x <150–250 words:
  - 1 on “formal” activities (music performance, basketball, school newspaper)
  - 1 on “informal” activities (custom-painting high-top sneakers)
  - 2 additional activities essays (activities may be formal or informal) to highlight interests and aptitudes that have not been covered elsewhere
- Resume: 1 x <650 words for the Common App, or <550 words if you want it already cut to fit the Common App and the UC app

*\$2900*

**FULL-SERVICE PACKAGE: ALL OF EXTENDED PLUS HELP CUTTING CORE ESSAYS TO ASSORTED WORD COUNTS FOR COMMON APP SCHOOLS AND NON-COMMON-APP SCHOOLS**

*Brainstorming, interviewing, notetaking, reviewing model essays, drafting, revising, revising, revising, polishing:*

- Extended Package +
- The above essays already cut to assorted lengths for easier recycling:
  - All 4 short essays down to 150 from 250
  - 1 of the long essays in a 150 or 250-word “capsule” version
  - The resume down to 550 words from 650 (for UC additional info section, vs. Common App additional info section)

*\$3500*

**UC PACKAGE: COMPLETE SET OF ESSAYS AND RESUME FOR UC SCHOOLS**

*Brainstorming, interviewing, notetaking, reviewing model essays, drafting, revising, revising, revising, polishing:*

- New! Personal Insight Essays: 4 x 350-word essays. These “personal insight questions” replace the personal statement prompts as of applications for fall 2017.
- Resume: 1 x 550-word for the “Additional Information” section.

*\$2350*

**À LA CARTE MENU:**

- Common App/UC app activities section review: \$175
- Common App/UC app review (everything but the essays): \$235
- “Special” essays: Let’s brainstorm, draft, and revise together: \$70/hour.
  - MIT’s “What do you do for fun?” prompt
  - Pomona’s “What class will you design to teach your peers critical thinking?” prompt
  - “Why” essays, as in, “Why do you want to attend Santa Clara University?”
  - Other “special” prompts that make recycling a challenge and call for new writing



- Arts portfolios/Arts supplements: artist statements, captions for pieces, etc. I love these. Let's talk! \$70/hour.
- Hourly tutoring: Need review of admissions-related writing that doesn't fit into one of my packages? Or prefer to take it one essay at a time? Let's review and revise together: \$70/hour.

## **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS: WORK PROCESS**

We will combine meeting in person, meeting by Skype, speaking on the phone, and me emailing detailed critiques of and line-edits for your drafts. Our exact process will flex according to your schedule, how you prefer to receive feedback, how I observe you working most effectively, and general workflow.

## SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

### WHAT ARE THEY?

- Would you enjoy a summer immersion program in creative writing, physics, entrepreneurship, or fly fishing/river ecology? Whatever you're into, there's a summer program for that.
- Many colleges offer residential summer programs of between 1 and 8 weeks (usually 1 to 3 weeks) for high school students who come to live in the (supervised) dorms and immerse in a favorite subject—or a brand new subject! Some summer programs are pay-and-go, while some are extremely competitive.
- Students consistently love some pay-and-go programs, such as the Great Books program on the Stanford campus and the backpacking/ecology research experience offered by NatureBridge in Yosemite.
- Alternately, a competitive program like the Iowa Young Writers' Studio or the Science Internship Program (SIP) at UC Santa Cruz is a great way for a student with serious aptitude in a subject to show it while improving her skills within a community of likeminded students.

## SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

### HOW DO THEY BENEFIT STUDENTS?

Summer programs allow you to pursue in-depth projects while meeting students from around the country, or in some cases, from around the world. Many students make close friends during these intensive experiences. In addition to being a joy in themselves, summer programs give students a chance to show either depth in a subject or a range of interests—either way, a summer program makes a valuable addition to your college applications.

# SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: SERVICE PACKAGE

*Brainstorming, interviewing, notetaking, reviewing model essays, drafting, revising, revising, revising, polishing:*

To get in to your program of choice, you'll need to write some application essays and/or provide a writing sample. Some programs ask only for a quick 100-word statement of interest, while other programs demand more writing than any college application! Whatever you are working on, I can help you brainstorm, draft, revise, and polish your application essays, as well as any resumes or activities statements required by your programs. The rates below may flex up or down for very simple or very complex applications.

*1 program = \$1000*

*2 programs = \$1600*

*3 programs = \$2000*

## WRITING FOR PUBLICATION: IN HIGH SCHOOL?

**Yes!** Even for students who don't think of themselves as "writers."

**For creative writers:** The number and quality of youth literary journals may surprise you! Poems, short stories, personal essays and short reflections . . . places to send them abound.

**For STEM folks:** Did you know that there are youth science journals, as well? Opportunities here are more spare, but they are there, and relatively accessible.

**For political junkies:** Good news: letters to the editor count on your college application! You know that "Honors and Awards" section on the Common App? (Or the "Activities and Awards" section on the UC app?) Well, here's one thing you can put there.

**For those who just want to do something easy to boost their college applications:** See "For political junkies," above. Don't worry—we'll flip through the newspaper together, discuss the issues, and identify something you care enough to write about.

**What about visual artists?** Many literary journals seek visual art, as well. I can help you identify suitable pieces, write your artist bio, and complete the other steps to submit your work.

# WRITING FOR PUBLICATION: SERVICE PACKAGES

## CREATIVE WRITING PACKAGE

### Process:

We will combine meeting in person, meeting by Skype, and me emailing detailed critiques of and line-edits for your creative pieces. Our exact process will flex according to how much drafting you have completed before we get started, how you would like to receive your feedback, and general workflow.

### Improve Your Writing Skills:

- Image
- Metaphor
- Diction
- Voice
- Tone
- Cutting out flab
- Dialogue that sounds like dialogue (fiction, creative nonfiction)
- Linebreaks (poetry)
- “Show don’t tell”: What does this classic writing advice look like in practice?

### Get Savvy about Publishing:

- What is a literary journal?
- What is a youth literary journal?
- How do I know what each journal publishes?
- How can I find literary journals that are open to printing work by new writers?
- What is the professional way to send my work to a journal for consideration?
- What goes in a cover letter to a literary journal?
- Help! I don’t have any publications yet . . . should I still include a writer bio? (Yes!)
- What the heck should I say in my writer bio?

- Can I send the same poem or short story to the same journal for consideration? A.k.a., what is a “simultaneous submission”?
- How long is this going to take? (It will feel like forever. So start sending!)

**Genres Included:**

- Poetry
- Short fiction
- Short creative nonfiction (aka personal essays, reflections, or essay-length memoir pieces)
- Short-short or flash short fiction or creative nonfiction

*20 hours @ \$60/hour (discounted hourly rate, like all the packages): \$1200.*

**RUSH PACKAGE**

Don’t have much time or writing experience, but interested in current events? (Or aspire to be interested in current events?) Let’s write letters to the editor! Yes, this civic engagement and publication counts in your favor on your college application.

**Process:**

We’ll meet in person once for 2 to 3 hours to discuss your interests (or what you think your interests might be), review model letters to the editor, and practice writing kicky leads. Then, you’ll go home to keep an eye on the headlines . . . and strike when the iron is hot. You’ll email me your draft, I’ll write back with suggested changes, and soon, hopefully, you’ll be ready to send your letter to the editors.

**Turnaround Time:**

When submitting a letter to the editor to a local paper, time is of the essence, so you’ll hop to the front of my queue and receive my suggested edits on your draft within 24 hours, if not same-day service.

*Meeting plus review/s of 6 letters through all drafts to completion: \$500*

# HOURLY TUTORING

*What are you writing?*

- Research papers for class
- Science fiction stories
- Application statements for club officer positions
- And much more . . .

Let's review and revise together.

*\$70/hour*