

ESSAY WRITING TIPS

Craft a compelling essay to set yourself apart in your ROTC or service academy application.

SECTION 1: BEST PRACTICES

Follow these key tips to ensure your essay reflects your leadership potential and dedication to service:

- 1. Tell Your Story:**
 - Highlight experiences that shaped your character, resilience, and passion for leadership.
 - Focus on specific moments that demonstrate your commitment to service and integrity.
- 2. Align with the Mission:**
 - Research the core values of the ROTC or academy you're applying to.
 - Reflect how your goals align with their commitment to leadership, duty, and excellence.
- 3. Be Authentic:**
 - Write in your own voice—avoid clichés or what you think “sounds good.”
 - Admissions officers want to understand who you are, not a polished persona.
- 4. Structure Your Essay:**
 - Start with a strong opening that captures attention.
 - Use a clear structure with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
 - Ensure each paragraph focuses on one key idea.
- 5. Proofread and Seek Feedback:**
 - Revise multiple times for grammar, clarity, and flow.
 - Ask a mentor, teacher, or trusted peer for constructive feedback.

SECTION 2: RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Explore these free and publicly available articles to guide your writing:

- 1. Service Academy-Specific Essay Guidance:**
 - [The United States Naval Academy Admissions Essay Guide \(CollegeVine\)](#)
 - [How to Write a West Point Application Essay \(Service Academy Forums\)](#)
- 2. ROTC Essay Writing Advice:**
 - [Crafting a Winning ROTC Essay \(AFROTC\)](#)
 - [Army ROTC Personal Statement Tips \(GoArmy\)](#)
- 3. General Writing Help:**
 - [Purdue OWL \(Online Writing Lab\): Comprehensive guides on essay structure and grammar.](#)
 - [Harvard College Writing Center: Advice for writing personal statements.](#)
- 4. Inspiration from Leadership Essays:**
 - [Examples of Leadership Essays \(Indeed\)](#)
 - [The Importance of Leadership \(Forbes\)](#)