

Essay Tuning Questions

Truth and Weight

- Do you think most people can relate to the main idea, issue, or point?
- Is it clear why this point is important to me?
- What do you think my overall essay says about me as a person?
- Does it seem like I'm really saying something or does it feel like a random collection of thoughts?

Organization

- Does the essay feel unified, with everything pointing toward the main point?
- Does the sequence of points or scenes feel logical and flow smoothly from beginning to end?
- How effective is the beginning at grabbing your attention?
- How effective is the ending at encapsulating the main point without being repetitive?
- How can I make my transitions and keep my essay from feeling choppy?
- Do you ever feel lost?

Vivid Description

- Is there too much or too little generalization or abstraction?
- Where do you want more details and where do you want less?
- Where can I be more specific?
- How strong are my examples or anecdotes?

Voice

- How would you describe my tone of voice in this essay?
- Does this sound like me?
- What are the places that are most difficult to read?

Mechanics

- Does it feel like I putting the paragraph breaks in the right place?
- Did you find any incomplete or fused sentences?
- Am I making any consistent mistakes in grammar or punctuation?
- Did you see any misspelling, typos, or extra words that I forgot to take out?

Engages Audience

- Does your attention ever drift?
- What are the places that my voice is most engaging?
- What impression do you think this essay will give the admissions committee?

Connection to Institution

- Does it seem like I've done my homework and know about this college or university?
- Have I made a good argument why I'm a good fit for their institution?
- After reading this what do you think I can add to their campus?