



Application for Admission The Personal Statement and the Essay

The Personal Statement and the Essay are opportunities. Most colleges that care about you as an individual, rather than view you as a number, are interested in learning things about you that can't be explained by your high school transcript or test scores. That is why they ask for essays. At Cornish, we ask you to write a little about yourself.

Your admission to Cornish will not hinge on your essays. It is rare, if ever, when a student essay is used to form a judgment on admission. Don't paralyze yourself by trying to say something profound. Relax, be yourself, and tell us about yourself. We want to know you, not judge you.

Now, the tips. Some may work for you; some may not. Hopefully, all will be helpful in some way.

- Don't forget the basic directions. Each essay should be on a separate page with your name, telephone number and email address at the top of the page. 250-500 words, typed and double-spaced.
- Tone and style can be formal or informal. One is not better than other; you decide. Formal, as though for your English class. Informal, as though you are writing to a friend. Even if you choose the formal style, perhaps thinking as though you are writing a letter or an email might make it easier to begin a draft.
- Write when you are fresh and enthusiastic. For some of you that is in the morning; others write better in the evening.
- Leave it and come back to it later if you start lose your focus.
- If you use word processing, don't forget spell-check!

Personal Statement

- The directions are giving you the opportunity to tell us about yourself and your art form, whether it is art or music, dance or design, acting or the production end of music, theater, and dance.
 - How long have you been doing it?
 - How did you get started?
 - What kinds of classes or experiences have you had?
 - Are there any teachers or experiences that have been especially meaningful or transforming?
 - What experiences are you looking forward to at the college level?
 - Why do you feel so strongly about doing your art?
 - What do you see yourself doing after college?
 - Why Cornish?

Essay

- As artists, it is important to not only create our own work, but also to observe, understand, and critique the creations of others. To be able view or listen to the work of other artists, and offer comments, will be part of your education at Cornish. We want to know that you are observing the work of others, and we are interested in what you think about it and how it has influenced you as an artist.
- Keep in mind that the artwork you discuss only needs to be something **you** find beautiful, moving, or inspiring. It can be comics, a successful advertising campaign, hip hop dance, rock music, whatever – we would just like to see what you can say about it.
- Note: If you plan on majoring in **Art** your topic is slightly different from those of you planning to major in **Dance, Design, Music, Performance Production or Theater.**

Any finally, the Best Tip of all: call your Admission Counselor. If you are not sure who that is, just call us and we will get you to the right person.

- If you have any questions about the essays;
- If you are unsure of what we are asking;
- If you have an idea you want to bounce off;
- Or just want reassurance!

Office of Admission
800.726.ARTS (2787)
206.726.5016
admission@cornish.edu
ww.cornish.edu/admission