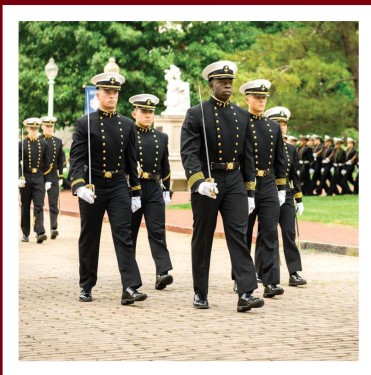




SERVEWELL™
— A C A D E M Y —
JOURNAL



Senior Year

How to Approach the Essays and Personal Statements

One of the most important things to do in your essay response is to answer the _____ that was asked. Do not go off on tangents about topics unrelated to the question.

To remain organized and on track, it is critical that you create an _____ (before you start drafting a response) that breaks down the sections of the essay and what they will address.

It is almost always better to be (specific/general) in your responses.

- (True or False) Do your best to use as much of the word or character count as possible.

- _____ (initial here) The essays and personal statements are a few of the areas where I can distinguish myself. I will take special care to ensure clear writing, no spelling or grammatical errors, and a personal touch.

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What Does a Successful ROTC Application Look Like?

List 3 things you learned while reviewing the sample ROTC application:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List 3 things that **surprised** you while reviewing the sample ROTC application:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

_____ (initial here) I now have a much better appreciation for what a Navy ROTC application looks like and how to best fill it out.

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What Does a Successful Common Application Look Like?

When you fill out an ROTC application, why do you also have to fill out a Common Application?

What is the word limit on the main Common Application essay?

_____ words

Most students choose between two different structures when writing their essay (narrative or montage). Choose which structure is being described below:

A (**narrative** / **montage**) essay tells a story much like a movie – it's very chronological. There is an opening scene, with things looking pretty normal (or status quo), then something dramatic happens, and the main characters deal with it, then something even crazier happens, and the main character has to make a tough decision, and then there is some level of resolution, and a new status quo. And, of course, along the way, the main character has learned a bunch of things. This is the formula for a typical story or movie.

A (**narrative** / **montage**) essay does not have to follow a chronological storyline. It can be a compilation of disparate ideas, behaviors, events, timelines. It can be all over the place. It doesn't have to conform to a particular formula or pattern. Now, hopefully, the ideas you present in this essay are related, in some unique way, that says something interesting about you – but the ideas don't have to be in any particular order.

A great essay will answer these 4 questions:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

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How to Prepare for Interviews

What different types of interviews should you be prepared for during this process?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

If you are doing a Zoom interview, why should you focus on the camera aperture instead of looking directly at the interviewer's face?

When doing a Zoom interview, you should try to exaggerate your facial expressions (**more / less**) to adjust for how a video connection differs from real life.

For in-person interviews, why should you arrive at the meeting location at least 15 minutes ahead of time?

What are examples of "small talk" topics that you should be prepared to talk about before the formal interview begins?

- (**True or False**) In a Zoom interview, it's better to have a light source behind you versus in front of you.

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Why Early Preparation Matters

Early preparation is one of the core tenets of ServeWell Academy's mission. Identify at least 6 reasons why this is so important, especially when it comes to military-related programs.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

What is a Navy LOA?

Why is receiving an LOA so beneficial?

- _____ (initial here) I understand the importance of "early preparation" in the application process. However, I will not submit an application that is rushed, incomplete, or mediocre just for the sake of being early.

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Do ROTC Selection Boards Communicate with Colleges?

- (True or False) When it comes to the selection process, ROTC selection boards do not communicate with the colleges on your wishlist.
- (True or False) If you win an ROTC scholarship, you automatically get admitted to your #1 choice college on your ROTC application wishlist.

Why can it be a big advantage to win an ROTC scholarship before submitting applications to your desired colleges?

In general, when are early ROTC scholarships awarded?

- middle of junior year
- Sep / Oct of senior year
- April of senior year

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Choosing a Major for ROTC Programs

- (True or False) All ROTC programs treat a candidate's "intended major" the same way. It has no impact on the selection process.
- (True or False) If you want to study a non-STEM major like English or History, don't bother applying for an ROTC scholarship. All of the scholarships are awarded to candidates who desire STEM-based majors.
- (True or False) If you are not particularly interested in STEM, one strategy is to select a STEM major on the application and simply switch majors once you get to campus. Nobody will care what your major is once you are admitted.

Which branch of service divides their ROTC majors into 3 Tiers?

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What is an NROTC ISR Contract?

What does "ISR" stand for?

How might earning a Navy NROTC ISR contract (or any ROTC scholarship) early in the process give you leverage in the admissions process?

- (True or False) If you win a Navy ROTC ISR contract, you can apply the scholarship to any college on your wishlist and you will automatically be admitted to that school.
- (True or False) Your chances of winning an ROTC scholarship are far greater the earlier you submit your application.

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How my Sons Made Their Decisions

Why did my older twin sons decide on Navy ROTC at Yale?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Why did my third son decide on the Naval Academy?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What factors are you considering when deciding where you want to attend?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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SERVEWELL™

— A C A D E M Y —

ServeWell Academy is a one-of-a-kind, online mentoring program that helps high school students who aspire to attend military service academies and earn ROTC scholarships to college – from freshman year through senior year.

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