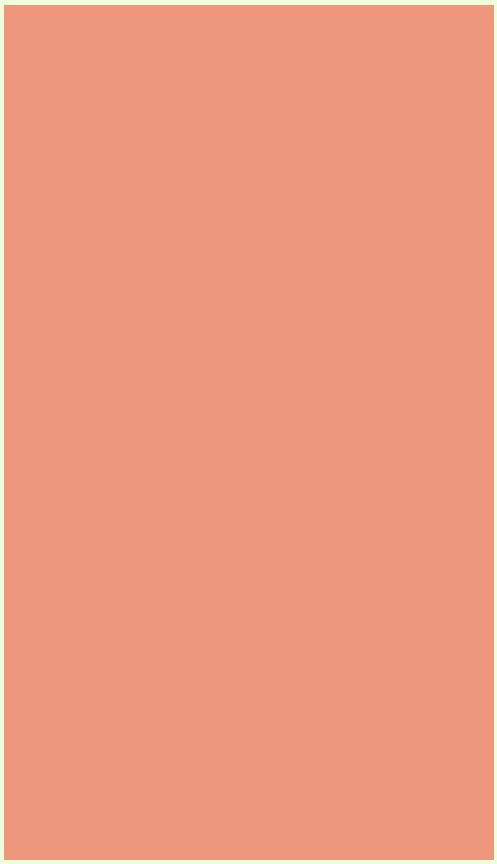
The art of ***specificity*** in application essays.



how to know which details contribute & which are fluff

Details contribute when they:

01.Show us who you are. Your personality, habits, quirks, and values.

02. Reveal your voice and perspective. How you think, feel, and what you notice.

03. Make your story clearer. Help readers understand what you're talking about and why it matters.

04. Support your intention. Connect to ideas, feelings, or atmosphere you want to create.

Details are fluff when they:

01. Could be replaced by any other detail and not lose meaning.

02. Don’t add more understanding or depth to the essay.

03. Repeat something without adding new meaning or intentional emphasis.

Quick check for when you're revising:

- *If you removed this detail, would the reader miss anything important?*
- *If you added a detail here, what could the reader learn?*

The takeaway

The art of specificity isn't about how many details you can include.

It's about discernment and knowing what each detail reveals.



Hi! I'm Sana.

I love helping folks with writing :)

-10+ years coaching writers
-Former English teacher
-BA Yale University
-MA Harvard Divinity School

I offer $100 one-time, async
Common App essay reviews &
custom coaching packages.

Visit my website to get in touch!

sanaaslam.com

Thanks for being here :)

Have a lovely day.

