

Video Essay Tips:

No matter which scholarship you're applying to, submitting a video essay is a great idea. A video essay is the best way for you to present yourself to the scholarship committee before an interview can happen.

Choose a quiet space with an appropriate background.

There is nothing more distracting than a messy room or a pile of dirty dishes next to the kitchen sink. The same thing goes for any background noise that may make it difficult for the committee to hear your voice. Remember, you want us to focus on you and your story! While your video isn't expected to be professional quality, you should be mindful of where exactly you're recording and the overall look of the video. Find a quiet space with minimal background noise.

Get Creative or Keep it Simple.

The entire point of video essays is to showcase who you are. Display your thought process, your strengths and beliefs and just your very personality in your video essay. Maybe you address the prompt with multiple shots at different locations that are important to you. Maybe you create a music video. It's important to follow the directions given, but don't be afraid to get creative if given the opportunity!

If you are a creative person, let it show. If you're not, don't try to look otherwise, keep your video simple.

Look Your Best.

It's important to be yourself in your essay videos, but be the cleaned-up version of yourself. Don't record your video in your pajamas. Think of this as an informal interview – you still want to make a good first impression, right? Wear a top that's clean and appropriate. It's not necessary to wear a blazer or a tie, but if that's what you normally wear then go for it! You want to be comfortable but also put together.

Practice your response, but don't read it.

Ever notice how boring a presentation can be when someone is just reading information from a paper or note cards? The same applies to essay videos. It's important to think about your response, practice it, and make sure you hit all the points you want to make, but reading your response from cards off-screen, or even just regurgitating your memorized script, is distracting and may come off as bland.

Address the prompt

Sometimes students get so caught up in the creative process of recoding a video essay they forget to actually answer the questions the application is asking. A great quality video with fun effects isn't going to win you points if you don't address the prompt. Make sure no matter how you put the video together that you're addressing the prompt using specific details, information about yourself that can't be found anywhere else in the application, and information that's tailored to the scholarship you're applying to. Treat this as you would any other scholarship essay. Be specific and tailor your responses.

Let your personality shine through

Remember, this is another way for our scholarship committee to get to know you! Be yourself and let them get a sense of who you are, what your interests are, and why you think you're a good fit for the scholarship. Recording a video can be intimidating and cause some students to hold back, but try to relax. Practice so you're comfortable and able to be yourself. As is with any regular college application essay, don't try to make yourself the applicant you think the committee wants. Be the best version of yourself and help the committee learn more about you.

Whether you're writing a standard supplemental essay, or recording a scholarship essay video, it's important to pay attention to details, make sure you're answering the prompts, and let the college get to know you and why you're a good fit.