



THREE STEPS TO CONQUERING YOUR SUMMER INTERNSHIP LIKE A BOSS: A GUIDE

The ideal summer internship will give you the skills and early exposure you need to get a head start in identifying and pursuing your academic and professional passions. But as you learn the ins-and-outs of your target industry, don't forget to think ahead to college application season. Follow these three steps to ensure the full value of your amazing summer experience is communicated in your college essays.



1. MAKE A LIST:



Keep track of every project you work on, as well as your specific contribution to these endeavors. Were you the one to call media outlets while working in a PR firm? Or maybe you compiled an investor deck for an upstart tech company. Perhaps you helped organize a fundraiser for your favorite non-profit. Whatever the project, make sure you record the role you played in its execution -- and get specific with the details. The more vividly you can paint a picture of your contributions, the more convincing your essay will be as you prove your interest and experience in your chosen field.



2. LEARN THE LINGO

BONJOUR

Pay attention to technical terms and industry jargon. Do people in the workplace refer to things in a particular way? Did you shadow a doctor who was doing ward rounds? Or work at an NGO that was concerned with capacity building in the developing world? Or canvas for a local politician who ran on housing reform policy? An effective way to showcase true interest in a field is by learning to speak the language like a professional. It's not about using big words; it's about revealing your familiarity with an industry that excites you. When it comes time to writing your essays—particularly your supplements which ask about your future interests and goals—your fluency in industry parlance will help you stand out.



3. PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS.



As you're learning the day-to-day tasks of a profession, ask yourself what qualities make for success in your role and the roles you aspire to fill in the future. Does it help to be gregarious and outgoing? Do you need to demonstrate hyper-attention to detail? Is it valuable to be able to think quickly on your feet? Once you have your list, ask yourself how you have utilized and honed those qualities? Are there specific situations in which you shine? When are you most valuable at your internship? Write it down. You strengthen your essay by showing that you understand the demands of the field and that you have the qualities of character to meet those requirements.



There's no better time to start plotting out your college essay than when your learning receptors are already activated. If you're feeling inspired to get ahead, check out our full video series, College Essay Academy, and turn your hard-earned experience into essay gold.

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