

COMMON APP ESSAY

Thesis Revision

Pitfall #1: Teaching a lesson

- Avoid “you”
- After my near-death experience, I realized you have to practice self-care first before you can care for others.
- **Better:** After being rushed to the hospital, on the brink of death due to my ruptured appendix, I realized I have to practice self-care first before I can care for others.

****Caring****

Pitfall #2: Being vague

- Being raised in a religious household, I always accepted my parents beliefs; however, as I became exposed to other ideas, I questioned them.
- **Better: Being raised in a strict Catholic household, I always accepted my parents beliefs; however, as I became exposed to other religions, cultures, and science, I questioned my blind “faith.”**

****Skeptical****

Pitfall #3: Complaining

- I would like to solve the problem of how much stress I have because of school.
- **Better: Balancing my family obligations, school work, and piano practice has always posed a challenge for me, but I have recently recognized the power of the planner.**

****Motivated****

Keep in mind

- Your thesis statement must answer the prompt
- Your thesis statement should be about YOU
- You don't need to label your defining quality in the thesis, but you should have in mind what defining quality you will be conveying through your essay

****Write your defining quality on the bottom of your thesis****