Approaching the activities section

The activities section is part of My Common Application. In it you have the chance to tell colleges more about who you are outside the classroom. You can use this section to highlight the activities and experiences that have been the most meaningful to you throughout high school.

Take a moment to reflect on what types of activities you may want to include. Did you have family responsibilities, a job, internship, or volunteer work? What about hobbies or sports?

Use this space to jot down an activity or two you might want to share.

You can add up to ten activities to your application, but that doesn't mean that you need to enter ten. This section is how colleges can get to know more about you. It can show what makes you unique: your pursuits, interests, and passions. Focus on what activities can best tell that story and not on the number you're reporting.

> *The activities section is one of our team's favorite sections of the application. Activities add persona to an application; they demonstrate an applicant's interests outside of the classroom and allow us a glimpse into that applicant's passions, further demonstrating how that individual may enhance our student community.*
>
> **— Adelphi University (Garden City, NY)**

Did you know?

If you need more space to elaborate on an activity or experience, you can use the additional information question in the writing section to share more details.

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How it works

First, you'll select your activity type. If your activity type isn't listed, you can choose "other club/activity" from the dropdown menu. You can give more details in the position/leadership and activity description fields.

Next, you'll briefly describe the activity and your position. You have limited space in these fields, so you may need to abbreviate words and simplify your grammar.

Characters allowed

- Position/Leadership description
  50 characters
- Organization name
  100 characters
- Activity details, honors won, and accomplishments
  150 characters

Example activity descriptions

Original

For two years I volunteered at my local animal shelter. I helped out where needed, but mainly walked dogs and monitored the front desk. Last year I was asked to take on more responsibility and have been volunteering as the receptionist during the weekends.
(256 characters)

Edited

Volunteer at local animal shelter walking dogs and running front desk. Given more responsibility last year and now volunteer as receptionist.
(141 characters)

The edited version fits the character limit and still gives the important details. The time spent on the activity has been taken out, because that information is reported elsewhere in the section.

For each activity you'll provide the hours spent per week on the activity, and then the weeks spent per year. If you can't remember the exact details, like the time spent on an activity, it's alright to give your best guess.

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