
Additional Information: How to Write About Academic Challenges

The Additional Information section is completely optional. Some students use it to explain academic challenges. Maybe your grades were low sophomore year. Maybe reading is hard for you. Maybe you didn't realize you had a learning disability until last semester.

If you choose to write about academic challenges, here are some tips to make the most of this opportunity.

Tip 1: Take responsibility

Don't whine, blame or make excuses. Even if the situation is not your fault, show readers how responsible you are by explaining how you made changes or asked for help.

Tip 2: Be clear and honest

Explain how you learn and any challenges you faced. Then write about how those challenges showed up in school.

Tip 3: Share specifics

Describe what you are doing to overcome your challenges, and provide at least one example to explain what you mean. You will encounter many challenging situations in college. Let readers know that you are ready to face them. For example: I started doing XX, which led to XX.

If you started getting better grades: Now I understand more/remember more/participate more (whatever is true for you), and my grade has improved as well.

OR

If your grade didn't change, but you still learned and improved: Now XX has happened (share a detail that demonstrates learning and growth). While my grade hasn't changed yet, I know XX/my teacher has said XX.