



Writing the Maroon Edition Essay: Strategies and Suggestions

Are you planning to enter the Maroon Edition/Maroon & Write Essay competition?

Congratulations! We can't wait to read your work. Here are a few suggestions to help you write a stronger essay.

Step 1: Read the book! The essay competition prompts ask you to reflect or apply some **aspect of the Maroon Edition book in your response; that's hard to do if you haven't read the book.**

Step 2: Read and answer the writing prompt. Read through each essay prompt carefully and select one of the prompts for your essay. Read it thoroughly and make sure you have addressed the question being asked. Some prompts may have more than one part; your response should address all parts of the question.

Step 3: Provide an introduction and conclusion. All good essays have one or more introductory sentences where you (the writer) tell the reader what to expect in the essay. Likewise, good essays have a conclusion, where the writer recaps the main points made in the essay.

Step 4: Provide evidence to support your points. Reflection is important; we want to see how the book connects to your experience. But be sure to incorporate the book as appropriate to your essay. If you quote a sentence from the book, put the passage in quotes and provide a page number.

Step 5: Revise your essay. All writers write and rewrite. Check your essay for spelling and grammatical mistakes. Try reading your essay aloud. How does it sound to you?

Step 6: Follow submission instructions. Each year, there is a deadline for the submission of Maroon Edition/Maroon & Write essays. Essays submitted after the deadline are not accepted. Essays must be between 500 and 1000 words and submitted as a PDF attachment. All essay submissions must include the MSU Honor Code. For more information about the Maroon Edition/Maroon & Write Essay, see the website:

<http://www.maroonedition.msstate.edu/>