Essay FAQs

It says the essay should be 250-500 words. My essay is 600 words. Is that okay?
The Common App does not restrict your word count, but you are expected to adhere to the maximum. Following directions is a large part of what admissions counselors are looking for in your application. While one or two words over the count may not impact your application, you should not go significantly over. Remember, admissions offices are reading thousands of essays. The saying “less is more” truly applies in this situation.

Can I insert a picture into my essay?
Yes! Just insert it into the Word document, and make sure the document is no larger than 500 KB in size. Don’t sacrifice space that could be used for great writing, though, or go over to a second page just to fit in a picture.

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