

Example of a Bad Essay

Sally, a SWENexter, was really hoping to win a SWE scholarship to help her pay for college. Unfortunately, her poorly written essay hurt her chances. Check out Sally's essay below to make sure you don't repeat her mistakes!

Sally's essay

I have wanted to be an engineer my entire life. I plan to study civil engineering in college, so I will get to learn how to build bridges and design buildings, helping to build cities around the world. **[Sally focused on *what* an engineer does, but does not tell us *why* she wants to be an engineer.]** I think that engineering will be very challenging, and I love a challenge! I've played basketball for 5 years, so I love being challenged physically and mentally. **[It's great that Sally played basketball for 5 years, but this does not really highlight her engineering interests or skills!]** In high schools, my favorite subjects was math and science. I earned the high grades in honors physics and calculus, and was selected to tutor struggling students after school 2 days a week. **[Uh, oh – Sally's accomplishments are overshadowed by her poor grammar and spelling. Make sure to proofread, and have someone else look it over, too!]** My mom is a civil engineer, and when I was little, I went to her "Take Your Child to Work Day". After seeing all of the cool things she does, we all got our own hard hat. Every time I face a challenge, I look at my hard hat and am motivated to keep pushing forward and accomplish my goals, just like my mom! I'm looking forward to studying math and science at a more advanced level.

[Sally has done some great things, but her essay is all over the place! Make sure you essay flows well from topic to topic.]