

Common App Activity Descriptions Worksheet

The formula: impact verb + what you did + measurable result

You get 10 activity slots. Each entry allows 50 characters for the position, 100 for the organization, and 150 for the description. Spaces and punctuation count. Draft here first, then trim:

- Start with a strong verb (Led, Organized, Built, Raised), never with "I" or "My."
- Include a number: how many people, dollars, events, hours. Numbers show scale fast.
- Don't repeat your position or organization. Those fields already say it.
- Drop "the," "a," and "an" where you can. These read like bullet points, not prose.

ACTIVITY 1 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 2 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 3 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 4 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 5 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

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Remember the order matters. The Common App lets you drag your 10 activities into any order, and readers start at the top. Put the activities that mattered most to you first. A job or family responsibility can absolutely outrank a school club. Weak: "I helped organize events for our club." Strong: "Organized 12 service events for 80+ members; coordinated logistics, speakers, and volunteer signups."

ACTIVITY 6 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 7 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 8 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 9 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

ACTIVITY 10 Activity: _____

Position: _____ 50 max Organization: _____ 100 max

Draft description 150 characters max, spaces and punctuation count

Tighter revision: _____ char count: _____

Keep every activity in one place. CollegeHound gives your family one free shared college planning workspace, where students can track activities by grade level and draft descriptions long before the Common App opens. Scout, our AI guide, is the paid upgrade. Start free at collegehound.com/get-started