

## College Essay

This assignment is for all seniors taking CP English. For this assignment, you will be writing your common app college essay in preparation for the colleges you will be applying to your senior year. Pick one of the seven prompts listed below and follow all directions on this page. For information on how this will be graded, see the College Essay Rubric document. Contact Mr. McLaughlin with any questions.

For this summer assignment, you will be writing an essay that's:

- € Focus is clear in opening paragraph
- € Includes the prompt and word limit
- € Begins non traditionally – begin with a quote, an anecdote, or just begin the story
- € Content of essay tells a personal story that
  - Shows rather than tells
  - Includes focus on self

Other aspects of the essay...

- € Avoids generalizations
- € Avoids Taboos (zero) examples of taboos listed below
- € Varies sentence beginnings (no more than 2 sentences w/ same beginning word)
- € Strives for grammatical diversity and perfection (no more than 2 errors)
- € Is within the word limit
- € Includes all aspects of the process (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> drafts w/ revisions/Kamholtz packet)
- € Follows MLA format
  - Header in MLA format (Name, teacher, class, date in proper form)
  - Double-spaced and in a serif (Times New Roman, etc.) font no larger than 12 pt. Includes a title (no special treatment – no underline, bold, etc.)

## What are the 2020-2021 Common Application essay prompts?

The 2020-2021 Common Application Essay Prompts are as follows:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

### **Writing Taboos**

#### **Do not use:**

Good

Bad

Stuff

Things

A lot

Kid

Nice

Any form of get

Any form of you