



**MOUNT NOTRE DAME**  
*Empowering Young Women*

## **Narrative College Essay Draft**

### **ALL Seniors should complete!**

Your narrative college essay draft is due on the first day of classes. You will submit your essay to your English teacher on the first day of your English class. If you are not taking English first semester, you will email your essay to Ms. Bonino – [abonino@mndhs.org](mailto:abonino@mndhs.org). If you have any questions over the summer about the college essay, please email Ms. Bonino – [abonino@mndhs.org](mailto:abonino@mndhs.org)

*Choose one prompt from below.* The best essays start in the middle of action, then go into your back story. There should be evidence of positive growth, and you should depict yourself in a positive light. Include a title and tie the title into your essay. Avoid trite topics like the big win, an injury that set you back, a grandparent's illness, etc... The essay should be about YOU. Find significance in ordinary, mundane, insignificant topics. Expect to revise your essay five to six times before it is submission worthy. 650 word limit.

2021 Common App College Essay Prompts – Narrative Essay, 650 word limit

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. *Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you? (NEW)*
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