COLLEGE ESSAY

Think of your essay as a window - it allows the college admission counselor to look inside and discover who you really are and what you are about; To reveal the person behind the grades, resume, and activities. Who do you want them to see? This is your opportunity to paint a picture of yourself and a chance to share your story.

2021-2022 COMMON APPLICATION ESSAY PROMPTS:

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?
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 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.

ESSAY WRITING TIPS:

1. Brainstorm ideas: Spend time writing any and all ideas down, Narrow down your options, Find your story to tell.
2. Use your own voice - Be yourself
3. Show- Don't Tell: Give specific examples of the attribute you are highlighting. Don't just talk about the event- tell how it made you feel.
4. Be Creative. Admissions counselors read thousands of essays each year. Make yours stand out. Colleges don't care what prompt you answer. It's ***how you answer it*** that matters.
5. Read your essay out loud. Does it flow? Does it sound awkward or natural? Does it make sense? Is it cohesive and concise?
6. Have other people read your essay! Your English teacher, counselor, parent or trusted friend can all provide helpful feedback. Take their feedback with an open mind.
7. A great essay takes time. Don't expect to write it in an hour. It's a process - give yourself time to brainstorm, write, edit, revise, and repeat!
8. A well written essay can be used for most, if not all, of your college applications. It can also be used for scholarship applications. It's worth the time and energy to do it really well the first time so you can use it many times.