

College Essay

1. Required Essay (approximately 500 words - no more than 650, no less than 250): Choose **ONE** of the following essay prompts to develop your college essay. These prompts come from the Common Application and are the most common types of essays required. While you are developing your essay, consider the guidelines provided on the Common Application website:

“The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don’t feel obligated to do so.”

- 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.

-or-

- 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?

-or-

- Discuss an accomplishment, event or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

-or-

- 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?

Tips:

1. Be reflective.
2. Keep the event simple and genuine, not exotic.

3. Be sure there's a focus, a common thread that ties the experiences together (it's not just a list of statements).
4. Would you want to meet the person behind this story?
5. Does it have a real voice? Is it your true voice?

Due dates:

- Outlines due to Ms. Mitchell the day after Memorial Day if you would like feedback prior to writing.
- **Essay drafts due to Ms. Mitchell on the first day of school next year**