

INSTRUCTIONS: COMPLETE ALL THREE OF THE ASSIGNMENTS BELOW.**ASSIGNMENT #1: PERSONAL/COLLEGE ESSAY**

An essential part of our success in the future is learning to express ourselves effectively through writing. ALL seniors will write their Common Application essays prior to the start of the school year. These essays will be evaluated and revised at the start of the school year. Please write an essay of 450 –650 words on a topic of your choice or on one of the options listed below (650 words is the maximum length on the Common App). This personal essay helps college admissions personnel become acquainted with you as a person and student, apart from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It will also demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. *NOTE: Your Common Application essay should be the same for all colleges. Do not customize it in any way for individual colleges. Colleges that want customized essay responses will ask for them on a supplemental form.*

2019-2020 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. 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.

FOR THIS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT, YOU MAY NOT CHOOSE #7.

** 8. Non-Common App schools. While over 500 colleges and universities accept the Common App, many of the more competitive schools do not. If you have identified a school to which you are certain you will be applying, and they are not on the Common App, you may write an essay responding to their essay prompt. If they do not require an essay (like Penn State), then you must do one of the Common App prompts above.

Steps to Success:

1. Brainstorm
2. Write at least one draft of the essay
3. PROOFREAD – your grade for your draft will be based on your command of standard written English language
4. Type a final, polished draft

Helpful Resources for Writing Your Essay:

- <https://blog.collegevine.com/how-to-write-the-common-application-essays-2019-2020/>
- <http://inlikeme.com/19-common-application-essay-mistakes-and-how-to-avoid-them/>
- <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/applications/essay>
- <http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/articles/Pages/Writing-a-College-Essay-Top-Ten.aspx>
- <https://www.collegeessayadvisors.com/portfolio-items/common-application-essay-tips/>

ASSIGNMENT #2: ASSIGNED NOVEL: *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway

You are all to read the novel *Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway. This poignant novel set in Italy during World War I is a moving love story interwoven with the tragedy of armed conflict and death.

Read the book carefully. You might want to take a few notes as you read. When you return to school, we will begin with a discussion and some writing activities on this novel.

Make sure you have a copy of the book in class during the first week. You may obtain a copy of this book from an area bookstore, by purchasing one online, or by reading an electronic copy if you so wish. Here is a link to a free online text:

<https://archive.org/stream/farewelltoarms01hemi#page/n9/mode/2up>

ASSIGNMENT #3: CHOICE BOOK

Choose a book of literary merit. This can be a work of fiction, nonfiction, or creative nonfiction. It can also be an anthology of short stories or poems, provided you read all of the literature within the volume.

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE "OFF LIMITS" LIST AND AVOID ALL BOOKS LISTED FOR GRADE 12 (next page).

Below are some websites for suggested reading lists:

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/ap-literature-reading-list>

<http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/ap-lit-summer-reading-list>

<https://neilbowers.wordpress.com/2008/07/27/a-unified-list-of-the-best-100-novels/>

<http://www.modernlibrary.com/top-100/100-best-novels/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Monde%27s_100_Books_of_the_Century

<https://www.albert.io/blog/ultimate-ap-english-literature-reading-list/>

In addition to reading the book, you need to have the following completed for your "choice book" (from the list below) on the first day of school:

- Write an essay where you defend or refute one of the statements below; support your stance using specific references from your "choice book" as well as from your own experience. For this essay, research is discouraged. Your response should be original.
- Do not summarize!
- Write 2- 3 full pages of typed, double-spaced text.

Statement One:

"Things that were hard to bear are sweet to remember." Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Statement Two:

"History teaches everything including the future." Alphonse de Lamartine

Statement Three:

"We must reform society before we can reform ourselves." George Bernard Shaw

Statement Four:

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." Heraclitus

Statement Five:

"We should not judge people by their peak of excellence; but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started." Henry Ward Beecher

NOTE: THE FIRST BOOK WE WILL READ AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WILL BE *WUTHERING HEIGHTS* BY EMILY BRONTE. YOU MAY WANT TO PICK UP A COPY OF THIS TEXT IF YOU FIND ONE. I do have copies of this book I can lend you.

BOOKS ON THE "DO NOT READ" LIST FOR GRADE 12.

The Guernsey Literary ...
The Bean Trees - Kingsolver
Their Eyes Were Watching God
A Lesson Before Dying
As I Lay Dying
Reading Lolita in Tehran
Their Eyes were Watching God
A Raisin in the Sun
Macbeth
Wuthering Heights
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
The Grapes of Wrath
Song of Solomon