

Planning for an AWESOME College Admissions Essay

You will be writing one college application essay. The rough draft is due at the start of class on Thursday, August 23, 2012; the final copy of it is due **Tuesday, August 28, 2012, at the start of your AP English class**. The rough draft can be word-processed (preferred) or hand-written. In either case, the essays need to be double-spaced. If you word process your writing, please use a traditional font such as Courier New (preferred) or Times New Roman or Arial. The font size must be 12 (point).

There is a witticism that says “If I fail to plan, I plan to fail.” There is great truth in that statement, especially when you must choose a writing topic. In writing, our best idea is rarely our first (or second or third or fourth...), so a dedication to both pre-writing AND revision is essential to truly improve one’s writing ability and style. Remember, good writing is re-writing. Great writing is re-writing times ten (or more).

The best essays will illustrate how an experience, person, or event has influenced who you are and what you plan to become. Also impressive are thoughtful essays that detail an important lesson you have learned and how that has shaped who you are and plan to become.

Topics to avoid at all costs (because this essay is to make you stand out and too many students write on these overused topics): Death, Divorce, & any Deity.

Here are some helpful websites for getting ideas, getting started, et cetera:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/index.html>

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/9406.html>

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/>

<http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/23/tip-sheet-essay/>

<http://www.englishcompanion.com/room82/college/writecollegeessays.html>

<http://www.back2college.com/admissionessay.htm>

http://collegeapps.about.com/od/essays/a/essay_tips.htm

http://www.quintcareers.com/college_application_essay.html

http://www.quintcareers.com/college_application_essay.html

<http://collegeapps.about.com/od/essays/tp/bad-essay-topics.htm>

<http://www.mahalo.com/how-to-write-a-college-application-essay/>