

WRITING # 2- COLLEGE APP ESSAY

THE OVERVIEW

The college “essay” answers a prompt. It does NOT repeat the info on your application, give your GPA or test scores, or list your activities and achievements. It isn’t a place to brag; it’s a place to be reflective. The control here is all yours, as opposed to the items you can no longer control, like tests, courses, extra-curriculars, etc.

THE ASSIGNMENT

1. Choose a prompt – one of the common app choices or one you are actually working on.
2. Some have word limits – Be wary! (It can seem easier to write one with a short limit, but it usually ends up really challenging to be *that* good in few words.)
3. Stick to the topic but get creative. The college app paper is essentially creative non-fiction: it should be true but think story-ish.
4. Work on your college app essay in your drafts folder until you are satisfied that it says what you want to say.

Tech Steps:

1. Open your Dropbox – and go to your DRAFTS folder.
2. Choose CREATE NEW FILE & start a new WORD document.
3. Please double space.
4. Write your essay. Make it “good.” Reread it to be sure it makes sense.
5. Make sure you shift paragraphs where ideas shift. (Hint: it does NOT need 5 paragraphs – be free.)
6. Title the doc Yourlastname College App (not literally – replace that with YOUR last name
7. Leave it in the Drafts folder. NO NEED TO SHARE.

MORE ABOUT THE COMMON APP

The common app prompts are meant to help you discover and share reflections about yourself that can help a college admissions officer or board note if you are a good fit for their campus culture. If you look closely, you’ll notice they are about your background, identity, interest, or talent; learning from a life challenge, setback, or failure; questioning your own beliefs/ideas; solving an intellectual challenge, research inquiry, or ethical dilemma; growing from your accomplishment, a moment, or a realization.