

College Essay Assignment

What: A personal essay that distinguishes you from others with similar grades, activities, and test scores. You want to show an admissions officer what you can contribute to their institution.

Schedule:

- Tuesday: Review assignment and model essays; pick a prompt; start draft and/or outline
- Wednesday: Discuss invention and outlines; design rubric; writing
- Thursday: Organize peer feedback session; writing
- Friday: Peer feedback; discuss revision; revise
- Next Tuesday: Turn in essay for assessment

Evaluation: We will design a rubric to evaluate these essays together. You will have the opportunity to personalize your rubric and decide how much you would like your essay to count toward your final writing grade for the semester.

What am I going to learn?

- How to approach writing a college essay
- Strategies for invention, outlining, storytelling, and revision
- What grammar and punctuation issues you need to work on

Why are we doing this now?

- It gives us something to talk about for our first writing conference
- This is the best way for me to get to know you and your writing
- It gives you more time to work on this essay for your applications
- Note: If you plans for next year are unclear, Animas still expects you to write one college essay. Having one strong essay will give you a tool to apply in the future, should you desire

Prompts

1st Choice: Pick a school to which you want to apply and use their application essay question

2nd Choice: Use one of the Common App prompts below:

- Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, which marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.