College Essay Boot Camp

Objectives
•To become skillful in the process of brainstorming, writing, and refining college essays
•To finish and refine *at least* one high quality response to a college essay prompt by the early decision deadline.
•This college essay will be displayed in the school.

Deadlines and Assessment
•You must bring three copies of a draft on Friday, October 31st for peer review. This will be worth 20 points (Community Learning). You will turn one of these essays to me for comments.
•You must submit your final essay by the end of class Friday, November 7th.
•Your final essay will be assessed out of 20 points (Formative) on the attached rubric
•You will create a display board showing your essay in the halls of our school. This is worth 5 points (Formative)

Prompts
•Research the individual schools to which you want to apply, and respond to a prompt specific to your college/university. If you don't know where you will apply, use one of the Common App prompts.

Common App Prompts
•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, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

Additional Expectations
•If you plans for next year are unclear, it is still an expectation that you write one college essay. Having one strong essay will give you a tool to apply in the future, should you desire.
•There may not be time for writing multiple essays, though many of you might want/need to. This mini-project is designed to give you the tools to write more but not necessarily the time.