

## 2015-16 College Essay Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Divide 100 points between these different categories. Organization must have a minimum of 20 points and mechanics must have a minimum of 15. You can give some of the other categories zero points.*

\_\_\_ Truth and weight – Have you found something important, revealing, and personally meaningful to write about?

\_\_\_ Organization – Is your essay well-organized, with clear introduction, topic sentences, natural transitions, and a conclusion that ties back to the beginning in an original and memorable way?

\_\_\_ Vivid description – Does the essay use descriptive details that allow the reader to experience what you're talking about through their senses, including dialogue, emotion, and examples.

\_\_\_ Voice – Is the rhythm, tone, and voice of the essay distinctive and entertaining with varied sentence structure and strong nouns and verbs free of equivocation? Does the essay avoid the passive voice, clichés, and overly broad and vague statements?

\_\_\_ Mechanics - Is the essay free of errors in grammar and punctuation, especially fragments and fused sentences, missing commas or comma splices, and misspellings.

\_\_\_ Engages Audience – Speaks to the interests of the admissions committee and makes a strong and memorable impression

\_\_\_ Connection to Institution – States or implies why you want to attend a particular institution, why you are a good fit, and what you add to their campus