

SUMMER WRITING ASSIGNMENTS FOR SENIORS

Welcome to senior year! In addition to your summer reading assignments, all seniors are required to write **ONE COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY** (250 word minimum length; maximum length of 650 words) to help you begin the application process.

Please, take this assignment seriously. This summer writing grade will be one of the first grades you earn for the first semester of your senior year English class, and will complete part of your college application process.

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY:

Select your topic from the choices of prompts from the Common Application listed here, **or** use a prompt from an application from a school to which you plan to apply. The following instructions and prompts come from the Common Application:

Instructions. The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. *What do you want the readers of your application to know about you beyond your courses, grades, and test scores?* Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application will not accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

Below is the full set of essay prompts for 2022-2023.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

You must proofread carefully and revise the essay well. A well-written essay may make a significant difference in your college acceptance and consideration for possible scholarships. Remember all you have learned about sophisticated writing style throughout your Beaumont English courses; use strong verbs, vary sentence structure, and avoid the [Forbidden Words](#). Because this is a personal essay, you may use first person point of view and some contractions, but be cautious to avoid the overuse of first person pronouns. Avoid direct address of your audience (the use of “you” in all forms). This essay should focus on its subject –its author -, so clearly present your unique voice by avoiding clichés and sweeping statements.

Format:

- Type your essay using Times New Roman, Size 12 font. Use double spacing throughout. ([Standard MLA formatting](#)) Include the correct heading for page one.
- Include your last name and page number in the upper right corner of each page, including page 1.
- Include the word count at the end of the essay.
- **Type the complete prompt at the top of the first page;** the reader needs to know which prompt you are addressing to evaluate whether or not you have adequately responded to it.
- Save your essay to a flash drive, Google Drive, or hard drive (or all three); you will be required to submit your work to www.turnitin.com when you return to school. A grade of 0 will be recorded in PowerSchool for assignments not submitted to Turn It In by the deadline given.
- Print your essay; staple your essay and the assessment rubric together for submission.

The college application essay is worth 65 points. **The final copy of the essay is due on the first Monday of the school year, August 22(A-Day) – even if you do not have British Literature/IB Literature on that day.** Essays submitted late will lose 5% for each day they are late. The essay is a required assignment for credit in your senior English course, even if the colleges to which you are applying do not require an essay.

Electronic submission of the essay to Turn It In must be made by 4:00 PM on August 22. Late submission to Turn It In will be penalized with a 10% deduction (6.5 points). Login information for Turn It In will be distributed on the first day of class.

Please review the [College Essay Rubric](#) for the evaluation criteria for this assignment. Print out a copy of the rubric to attach to your Summer Writing Assignments when you submit the essay.

Enjoy your summer; I look forward to seeing you in August. – *Mrs. Bernardo*