

Name _____
English 12

Period 1
Date: _____

The College Essay

- 1.5.12.A:** Write with a clear **focus**, identifying topic, task, and audience.
- 1.5.12.B:** Develop content appropriate for the topic. (Gather, organize, and determine validity and reliability of information. Employ the most effective format for purpose and audience. Write fully developed paragraphs that have details and information specific to the topic and relevant to the **focus**.)
- 1.5.12.C:** Write with controlled and/or subtle organization. (Establish coherence within and among paragraphs through effective transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.)
- 1.5.12.D:** Write with an understanding of **style** using a variety of sentence structures and descriptive word choices. Create **tone** and **voice** through the use of precise language.
- 1.5.12.E:** Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety, and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how questions of purpose, audience, and **genre** have addressed.
- 1.5.12.F:** Use grade appropriate **conventions of language** when writing and editing. (Spell all words correctly. Use capital letters correctly. Punctuate correctly. Use correct grammar and sentence formation.)

Gaining entrance to just about *any* college continues to get more difficulty as more and more applicants are applying for a limited number of spaces. How can you improve your chances to being admitted to the college or university of your choice? By writing a stellar personal essay as part of your college application.

It may be only 500 words, but the admissions essay(s) portion of a college application can mean the difference between acceptance and rejection. How you write your personal essay shows the admissions committee why you are different from everybody else. It provides information about you that test scores, grades, and extracurricular pursuits just cannot.

There are many topics and prompts to choose from—you could even create your own. However, even with all of these possibilities available to you there is a minimum requirement for this class, which means that you might have to revise parts of this paper for the college of your choice. Your job will be to write a college essay that is 1.5 to 2 pages in length (approximately 500 words) in an MLA format which should include the following: a self made title, running header, font size 12 Times New Roman and double spaced. This is a 50 point assignment; therefore, you will have the option to rewrite/revise (recommended) this essay for the higher grade if necessary.

College Essay Topics

- Please complete a one-page personal statement and submit it with your application.
- How would you describe yourself as a human being? What quality do you like best in yourself and what do you like least? What quality would you most like to see flourish and which would you like to see wither?
- Why is (University Name) a good college choice for you?
- Please tell us about your career goals and any plans you may have for graduate study.
- Do you believe there's a generation gap? Describe the differences between your generation and others.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Creative people state that taking risks often promote important discoveries in their lives or work. Discuss a risk that has led to a significant change (positive or negative) in your personal or intellectual life.
- Describe the most challenging obstacle that you have had to overcome, discuss its impact and what you learned from this experience.
- Describe reasons for select (University Name) and your personal and professional goals after college.
- Please relate your interest in studying at (University Name) to your future goals.
- In your opinion what is the greatest challenge that your generation will face? What ideas do you have for dealing with this issue?
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Who do you feel is the most important role model in this century and why?

Name _____

Period _____

College Essay Writing Assignment
Scoring Rubric

Organization:

Essay is easy to read due to clear organization of subtopics	5
Organization is hard to follow	0
Method of organization is well-suited to topic	5
A better method of organization is necessary	2
Essay shows no method of organization	0

Content:

Essay completely answers assignment question	5
Essay somewhat answers assignment question; some information is missing	4
Too much information distracts the focus of the paper	2
Essay does not answer assignment question	0
Examples in essay are ample support for thesis	5
Examples in essay are not enough support for thesis	2
Examples in essay do not support thesis at all	0
Examples are specific and concrete.	5
Examples are nonspecific and/or abstract.	2
Examples are vague or distracting	0
Interest level of essay is superior. (Uses appropriate and interesting vocabulary and a variety of sentence structures.)	5
Interest level of essay is above average.	4
Interest level of essay is average	2
Interest level of essay is below average.	0
Introduction and conclusion are interesting and balanced.	5
Introduction or conclusion is dull, or one is stronger than the other.	2
Both introduction and conclusion are dull or are both weak.	0

Style and Mechanics:

Essay follows MLA	5
Essay somewhat follows MLA style.	2
Essay does not follow MLA style.	0
Essay consistently uses proper punctuation and grammar.	5
Essay contains fewer than 4 errors in punctuation and grammar.	2
Essay contains 4 or more errors in punctuation and grammar.	0
Essay exhibits correct spelling.	5
Fewer than 4 words are misspelled.	2
Four or more words are misspelled.	0

Total: _____ /50