

Name _____

Period _____ Due Date ____/____/____

College Application (Narrative) Essay Assignment

Overview: *We will be writing several essays in this course, but this one serves multiple purposes. Obviously, the essay will be an opportunity for you to improve on and demonstrate your writing skills, but it will also serve as an important first step in helping you think about your post-high school academic life. Why? Because the prompts for this essay are taken straight from current college applications.*

Planning & Understanding – Carefully select the prompt you want to address. **Think.** This style of writing requires you to tell *your* story in the context of the prompt. Outline your thoughts about the prompt, perhaps using a graphic organizer. Revisit your journal entries for ideas. Consider the *genre* work you’ve done, particularly in the context of the purpose and audience for this essay. What is important is how well you show, explain and detail your particular perspective and effectively share your story.

Write – Follow the essay format described below. Your final draft should be roughly 500 to 650 words long (two or three pages at the most), double-spaced, and in 12 point Times font following our class template:

Introduction ¶ – Three to five sentences. Include a strong opening that directly addresses the prompt you’ve chosen. This will serve as a preface to the main point(s) that you’ll address in your essay, or ask the essential question(s) upon which your essay will focus.

Body ¶s – Here’s where you’ll be expanding on the point(s) you made in introductory ¶. You’ll use plenty of supporting details that **show** rather than **tell** your reader your particular story. This is the bulk of your essay and you may use as many body ¶s as make sense in the context of your essay.

Concluding ¶ – Wrap up your essay using a technique that has more in common with story telling rather than traditional essay writing. Help your reader on both a logical and emotional level better understand why your story matters to you.

Prompts – Select one of the following prompts:

- 1) Tell a story from your life describing an incident or event that is central to your identity or one that helped to form or demonstrate your character.
- 2) Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn?
- 3) Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community or family.
- 4) Discuss how your family’s experience or cultural history enriched you or presented you with opportunities or challenges in pursuing your educational goals.

Proposal – fill out the form below and have Mr. DeMiero or Mr. Stoumbos sign off on it. ***It is important that you follow through on your proposal.*** Please include this sheet along with your final draft.

I have chosen Prompt No. ____ for my narrative essay assignment.

In general, the story I’m going to tell is _____

I understand that ____/____/____ is the due date for the final draft and that it **must** be printed out and turned in to the basket in room 110 by the end of the period on that day.

Student’s signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Teacher’s signature _____ Date ____/____/____