

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 and your “My Name”/“Where I’m From” assignment for ideas. What is important is how well you *show, explain, detail* and *effectively share* your story.

Prompts – Select **one** of the following prompts:

- 1) Tell a story from your life describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it. (*University of Washington 2015-2016*)
- 2) Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again? (*The Common Application 2015-2016*)
- 3) Describe a problem you’ve solved or a problem you’d like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query or an ethical dilemma – anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could take to identify a solution. (*The Common Application 2015-2016*)
- 4) Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family. (*The Common Application 2015-2016*)

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) that will be the focus of your response.

Body ¶s – Here’s where you’ll be expanding on the point(s) you made in the introduction ¶. 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 than traditional essay writing. Help your reader on both a logical and emotional level better understand why your story truly matters to you.

Proposal – fill out the form below and have Mr. DeMiero or Mr. Smiley sign off on it. **It is important that you follow through on your proposal.** This sheet serves as your blueprint or guideline for this assignment.

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 rough draft and that ____/____/____ is the due date for the final draft. I also understand that each draft **must** be printed out following our class formatting guidelines.

Student’s signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Teacher’s signature _____ Date ____/____/____