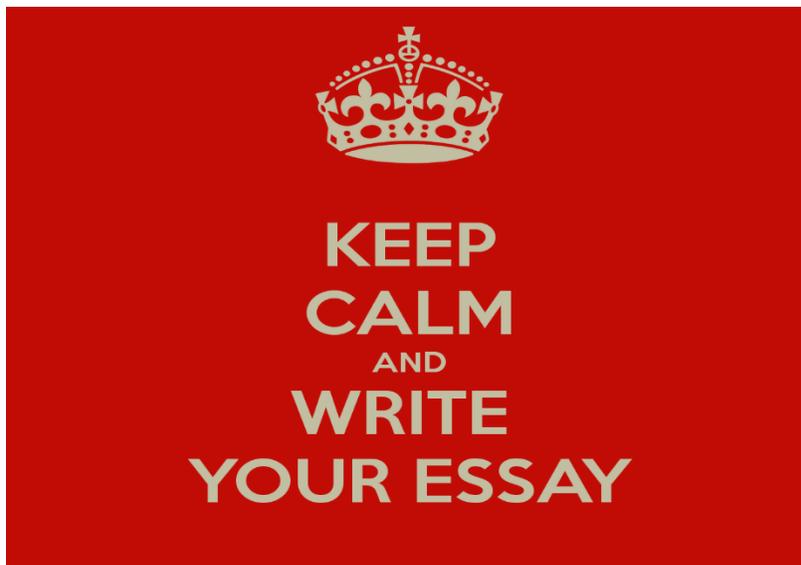


Rising Seniors start planning and writing your essay



The **Common Application** (www.commonapp.org) just announced the essay prompts for the 2017-2018 college admissions season.

The Common App is shaking things up just a bit for the new year. There are prompts that are exactly the same as the previous two years, some with minor changes, and a few new options.

The average rising senior will take a first look at these essay questions sometime this summer or next fall. For those current juniors who understand the power of mulling things over though, here's a quick look into what your writing future holds, courtesy of the Common App prompts:

1. Some students have a background, 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. [No change.]
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you face 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. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, 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 be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others. [Revised, but similar.]
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 a 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.

Nearly **700 colleges accept the Common Application** (and more colleges may be introduced as members later this year). Many students will have at least one of the colleges that accept the Common Application on their list.

If I can help with your college planning and college admission needs, please do not hesitate to email or call, better to plan now than wait till junior year.

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