

College Essay/Personal Narrative Bookmarks

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A complete rough draft of your college essay is due to your senior English teacher. Some form of this Day 1-5 preparation work was completed in the 4th quarter of junior year English. You are required to complete the college essay, which can be found under "Day 6."

****Do not hit the "request access" button... MAKE A COPY OF THIS DOC, AND LABEL IT WITH YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME. This will ensure you are the owner of the doc and can upload it to your English 12 GoogleClassroom in the fall.**

Complete:	Day 1
1. Intro to the College Essay/ Personal Narrative	<p>Overview: This is a collection of introductory activities to prepare you to draft your college essay. You will look at the different essay prompts and determine what they are asking, read sample essays, brainstorm topics and ideas, and write a first draft of your essay. If you are considering another post-secondary path (trade school, work force, military, etc.), you have the option to write a personal narrative on a topic of your choice.</p> <p>**It is recommended you all write the college essay; you never know if your plans will change, and you want to have an essay to use!**</p> <p>Consider the Essential Questions below as we work through the unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>How do I capture ideas that are important to me? What ideas are worth developing?</i> ● <i>How does a writer effectively communicate real experience?</i> ● <i>How do personal experiences impact one's identity?</i> <p style="text-align: center;">For your perusal: the 2020-2021 Common Application Essay Prompts</p>
2. Anticipation Questions Respond to the questions in each box.	<p>1. What are college admissions officers looking for when they read student essays? Read this for answers. (If you can't access this, use this link.) List 3 things--more if you find more things worth noting,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● ● <p>2. The college essay is a personal narrative: a story about yourself. What makes an effective college essay story? Read this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● ● <p>3. Read this. Now, having read all three articles, list 3 things that should be avoided in a college essay.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
	<p>4. View the following video. Note <u>1</u> “takeaway” (point/fact/idea) from the video.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<p>5. Read the following article: How to Conquer the Admissions Essay. <u>Bullet 3</u> “takeaways” from the article.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
<p>3. Introduce Mini-Narratives</p> <p>Complete Mini-Narrative #1</p>	<p>Your Task:</p> <p>You will write a variety of short, personal pieces to help you brainstorm for your college essay/personal narrative.</p> <p>Suggested topics/prompts are listed below, though you are free to come up with your own topics. Set a timer and spend about 15 minutes writing about your selected prompt/topic (you will need to set aside four sessions of 15 minutes--they are included in each “daily lesson”). While these are informal pieces, the expectation is that you utilize this time to produce meaningful, thoughtful responses.</p> <p>The expectations are outlined in this rubric.</p> <p>Suggested Topics/Prompts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Inventory/Accomplishments: Compile an inventory of your activities and accomplishments—school, sports, extra curricular activities, awards, work, and pastimes. Think about how you spend your time each day, and include any items that seem significant to you. Write down any qualities, skills, or feelings associated with the activities. 2. Stream of Consciousness: Answer these questions during one uninterrupted period of writing. Who are you? What do you want? Start with whatever comes to mind, and write without pausing. 3. Top-Ten Favorites: List your top ten favorites in the following areas: movies, books, songs, musicians, sports/athletes, works of art, TV shows, famous people, historical figures, or other categories of your choice. Categorize these lists by answering the following questions: Which favorites are you most passionate about? How have these favorites affected your outlook, opinions, or direction? What do they say about you? 4. Chronology: Start with your childhood and record any or all special or pivotal experiences you remember. Go from grade to grade, or job to job, noting any significant lessons learned, achievements reached, painful moments endured, or obstacles overcome.

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5. Setting Goals: Write down what comes to mind when you think of the following questions. What are your wildest dreams? What did you want to be when you were a small child? If you could be anything now, regardless of skill, money, or other restrictions, what would it be? **OR** Choose your two favorite subjects and think about the way your life would look in twenty years if you pursued either one as a college major and then a career.

6. Influential People: Record the people (family members, friends, coaches, teachers, colleagues, neighbors, etc.) who have had an impact or influence on you. Characterize these people and explain how they have affected you.

7. External vs. internal perception? Look back over your last few weeks of social media posts, looking closely at what you choose to share (photos, comments, selfies, memes, etc.) What perception do you think people have of you based on what you share? How closely do these perceptions align with your view of yourself? How do you view yourself or how do you want to be perceived?

8. Learning Experience: Describe an experience or event that taught you something about yourself or changed your views/beliefs in some way.

9. A Time I: Describe a time you... (choose one and develop it into a “story”)

- wish you could forget
- were disappointed
- felt regret
- felt a sense of pride
- were genuinely happy

Rubric

Criteria	Points Earned	Points Possible
Completes all 4 responses		20
Responses spell-checked and proofread for clarity		20
Responses demonstrate effort		20
Responses demonstrate thought and reflection		20

Type your first daily narrative below:

Narrative #1

4. Read---->	The Narrative Elements/Tips Slideshow
5. “Show—Don’t Tell” Practice	When writing, you do not want to tell readers directly what they are supposed to think or feel;

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rather, you need to select and use revealing, sensory details. Let your audience see, hear, smell, feel, and taste the experience. An easy way to accomplish showing and not telling is to avoid the use of "to be" verbs (am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been). As you read the examples below, you see "was" is used repeatedly in the "tell" column.

Do not <i>tell</i> the reader...	<i>Show</i> the reader
Joey was afraid. There was a storm. The lights went out.	<i>The lights suddenly went out. In the darkness, the wind and rain grew louder and seemed closer...Joey sat still, his heart beating fast. It made a 'thump, thump, thump' noise in his chest.</i> "A Knock at the Door" Stuart Mead
Alvin's mother was angry. She hit Alvin. It was very painful.	<i>She had moved so quickly, her hand going back and across in one movement, slapping his left cheek with a crack that silenced the room. The pain hung hot on his cheek.</i> "Victim" Adrian Tilley
Bill was frightened. He thought someone was behind him.	<i>It seemed a shadow had fallen over him. But there was no shadow. His heart had given a great jump up into his throat and was choking him. Then his blood slowly chilled and he felt the sweat of his shirt cold against his flesh.</i> "All Gold Canyon" Jack London

Practice:

Choose 1 of the "situations" below, and rewrite it by adding description/sensory details to paint a picture of what is happening. Appeal to the senses, and focus on the body's response to the emotion(s). Your description should be 2-3 sentences.

- a. I was in the waiting room. I was nervous.
- b. I was walking through the dark forest. I was scared.
- c. The students were disruptive. The teacher was frustrated.
- d. The snow kept coming down. I was cold.
- e. I made the game winning goal. I was excited.

Choice __

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Complete:	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Day 2</h1>		
1. Complete Mini-Narrative #2	<p>Suggested Topics/Prompts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Inventory/Accomplishments: Compile an inventory of your activities and accomplishments—school, sports, extra curricular activities, awards, work, and pastimes. Think about how you spend your time each day, and include any items that seem significant to you. Write down any qualities, skills, or feelings associated with the activities. 2. Stream of Consciousness: Answer these questions during one uninterrupted period of writing. Who are you? What do you want? Start with whatever comes to mind, and write without pausing. 3. Top-Ten Favorites: List your top ten favorites in the following areas: movies, books, songs, musicians, sports/athletes, works of art, TV shows, famous people, historical figures, or other categories of your choice. Categorize these lists by answering the following questions: Which favorites are you most passionate about? How have these favorites affected your outlook, opinions, or direction? What do they say about you? 4. Chronology: Start with your childhood and record any or all special or pivotal experiences you remember. Go from grade to grade, or job to job, noting any significant lessons learned, achievements reached, painful moments endured, or obstacles overcome. 5. Setting Goals: Write down what comes to mind when you think of the following questions. What are your wildest dreams? What did you want to be when you were a small child? If you could be anything now, regardless of skill, money, or other restrictions, what would it be? OR Choose your two favorite subjects and think about the way your life would look in twenty years if you pursued either one as a college major and then a career. 6. Influential People: Record the people (family members, friends, coaches, teachers, colleagues, neighbors, etc.) who have had an impact or influence on you. Characterize these people and explain how they have affected you. 7. External vs. internal perception? Look back over your last few weeks of social media posts, looking closely at what you choose to share (photos, comments, selfies, memes, etc.) What perception do you think people have of you based on what you share? How closely do these perceptions align with your view of yourself? How do you view yourself or how do you want to be perceived? 8. Learning Experience: Describe an experience or event that taught you something about yourself or changed your views/beliefs in some way. 9. A Time I: Describe a time you... (choose one and develop it into a "story") <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wish you could forget • were disappointed • felt regret • felt a sense of pride • were genuinely happy 		
	Rubric		
	Criteria	Points Earned	Points Possible
	Completes a minimum of <u>4</u> responses		20

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	Utilizes time to complete responses		20
	Responses demonstrate effort		20
	Responses demonstrate thought and reflection		20
	<p>Type your daily narrative below. Narrative #2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 250px; width: 100%;"></div>		

<p>2. Analyzing and Evaluating the Narrative Elements</p>	<p>Analyzing and Evaluating the Narrative Elements</p> <p>Directions: Choose and read one of the essays below, and respond to the questions that follow. You will analyze, critique, and evaluate the author’s use of narrative elements (slideshow from day 1).</p> <p>Essay Choices: (click on the link to read the essay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Hair” Malcolm X <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malcolm X tells the story of his first conk and reflects on the experience ● “What is a Hunter?” Robert G. Schreiner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schreiner describes his first hunting trip and what he learned from the experience ● Excerpt from <i>Why Not Me?</i> Mindy Kaling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kaling discusses her early preoccupation with others’ perceptions of her and what she has realized and learned over time <p>Essay Choice: </p> <p><u>Critiquing the Essay:</u></p>
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	<p>1. What is the author’s narrative purpose—to inform, enlighten, or share a personal experience? How, specifically, does the author convey the purpose?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>2. How does the author use words to create tone and style? What do word choices suggest about the writer’s attitude toward the subject? Consider the connotation of the words. Provide specific examples from the essay in your response.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p><u>The Narrative Elements:</u></p> <p>3. (Bracketing) How is the narrative/essay bracketed or framed? Do the beginning and end connect, and if so, how? Be specific and support your response with examples from the essay.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>4. (Connections) How does the author provide opportunities for readers to make connections? Consider how the author’s story/subject is universal to all people.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>5. (Credibility) How does the author establish convincing credibility to speak on the topic?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>6. (Unfolding/Emerging Theme) What theme/message does the story convey, and how is it developed or revealed over the course of the essay? *Consider what the author learns and takes from this experience.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div>
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Complete:	Day 3
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1. Complete Mini-Narrative #3	<p>Narrative #3 (See Day 1 or 2 for prompts and grading rubric)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; background-color: #f8bbd0;"></div>
2. Additional Resources - Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Attributes of the College Essay The Essay Lead
3. Read Sample Essays; Complete Critique #1	<p>College Essay Critique 1</p> <p>Now, you will read sample college essays--you will read a minimum of 3 for each “daily lesson,” though you are encouraged to continue to read additional sample essays.</p> <p><u>Your Task:</u></p> <p>Visit the following sites/links. Read over any three essays of your choice. For one of the essays, respond to the questions that follow.</p> <p>Connecticut College Essays that Worked (Scroll down; essays are on the right side in the dark, shaded box).</p> <p>The 2020 Common App Essay Questions with Sample Essays (Essays are linked under each prompt)</p> <p>Sample College Essays</p> <p>Paste essay links (<i>or author from PDF essay</i>) below. Highlight the essay you are critiquing.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. </div> <p>1. What does the writer do well? What do they do effectively?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #f8bbd0; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>2. Evaluate the essay hook. Is it effective? Why/why not?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #f8bbd0; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>3. How is the essay bracketed? Do the beginning and ending “connect” in some way?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #f8bbd0; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>4. Does the writer use specific and vivid details that make the narrative come alive?</p>

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	<p>5. What does the essay reveal about the writer? How does it make them desirable in the eyes of an admissions officer? (Consider the theme/message/lesson of their essay.)</p>

Complete:	<h1>Day 4</h1>
1. Complete Mini-Narrative #4	<p>Narrative #4 (See Day 1 or 2 for prompts and grading rubric)</p> <div style="background-color: #bbdefb; height: 40px; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
2. Read Prompts	<p>Examining the College Essay Prompts</p>
3. Read Sample Essays; Complete Critique #2	<p>College Essay Critique 2</p> <p>You will complete the same task you did last “class.”</p> <p>Visit the following sites/links. Read over any three essays of your choice. For one of the essays, respond to the questions that follow.</p> <p>Connecticut College Essays that Worked (Scroll down; essays are on the right side in the dark shaded box).</p> <p>The 2020 Common App Essay Questions with Sample Essays (Essays are linked under each prompt)</p> <p>Sample College Essays</p> <p>Paste essay links (or author from PDF essay) below. Highlight the essay you are critiquing.</p> <div style="background-color: #bbdefb; height: 60px; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. </div> <p>1. What does the writer do well? What do they do effectively?</p>

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	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>2. Evaluate the essay hook. Is it effective? Why/why not?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>3. How is the essay bracketed? Do the beginning and ending “connect” in some way?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>4. Does the writer use specific and vivid details that make the narrative come alive?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>5. What does the essay reveal about the writer? How does it make them desirable in the eyes of an admissions officer? (Consider the theme/message/lesson of their essay.)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div>
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Complete:	Day 5
<p>1. Overview College Essay/Personal Narrative</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">College Essay/Personal Narrative</p> <p>You will now write your college essay/personal narrative. You are encouraged to refer to your mini-narratives and pre-writing exercises, as needed.</p> <p>Things to Keep in Mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The college essay word limit is 650 words. (If you are doing the personal narrative, you should aim for 1 ½- 2 pages.) - You will receive feedback (rubric and teacher comments) on this draft - SHOW; don't tell—use details that enable readers to visualize your story - Make strong and effective word choices—consider the connotations words carry - Bracket your essay—the beginning and end should connect in some way - Reflect—a theme should emerge; do not force it and tell the reader explicitly what you learned or how you changed <p>You will be graded using this rubric. See essay options/prompts below.</p>

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Option 1: College Admission Essay

2021-2022 Common Application Essay Prompts

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.

Option 2: Personal Narrative

Your Task:

Write a personal narrative based on an experience in your life using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

- Engage and orient the reader by establishing the situation and its significance.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection.
- Sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome.
- Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experience.
- Provide a conclusion that flows from and reflects upon what is experienced over the course of the narrative.

Assignment Overview:

- Your narrative will describe the “story” about your life with a beginning, middle, and end. A narrative moves through events, usually in a rough, chronological order, and one thing seems to follow another in some logical sequence.
- You will include sensory details, strong word choice, and transitions to develop and communicate your story effectively to your audience.
- You will end with a reflective conclusion that resolves the conflict. Like all other essays, the narrative essay is a composition in which the author is trying to make a point. (That point will become your thesis.) A story isn't really worth writing

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	<p>about unless there is some larger truth the reader can learn from the events themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There must be a reflection upon the analysis of the event that gives the story significance beyond your personal experience. o There must be movement or growth from the beginning to the end; things are not the same at the end of the tale as they were at the beginning. o It should also be evident that you have given thought to the relationship among the events of the narrative. 			
<p>2. Pre-Writing/Organizing Ideas</p>	<p>College Essay/Personal Narrative Pre-Writing/Graphic Organizer</p> <p>I am writing the ___ college essay ___ personal statement</p> <p><u>If writing the college essay</u>, copy and paste the prompt to which you will be responding here. (Copy and paste it from the website.)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #e1f5fe; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>1. Write a brief description of the event/experience you will be writing about, AND explain why it is significant to you.</p> <p>Description:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #e1f5fe; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>Significance:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #e1f5fe; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>2. Give three short, concrete details related to that experience in order for that anecdote to really come alive to your reader (show, don't tell). Concrete details are specific, sensory-based details. Use crisp, specific language. Avoid vagueness.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 50px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>3. What did you learn about yourself and/or others from this event?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #e1f5fe; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>4. What lesson(s) and/or value(s) did you learn or understand with more depth?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; background-color: #e1f5fe; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div>			

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	<p>5. How did you change as a result of this event? How did it influence you? Again, use concrete details and precise language.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; background-color: #e1f5fe; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>6. What do you hope to demonstrate about yourself to admission officers/readers?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; background-color: #e1f5fe; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div>
3. Begin Writing Essay	<p>Begin writing your essay/personal narrative at the bottom of this doc (click for bookmark).</p> <p><i>You will need this draft in the first week of 12th grade, no matter what English you will be taking. All seniors revise and perfect the college essay in September.</i></p>
More Resources:	<p>The College Essay Prompts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>What</i> are these questions asking? ● <i>How</i> should I respond? <p>Check out the sites listed below. They break down the prompts, explain what is being asked, and provide ideas and examples regarding how to respond.</p> <p>The 2020 College Essay Prompts Explained How to Answer the 2020-2021 Common App Essay Prompts</p>

Complete:	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Day 6</h1>
Finish your essay	<p>With a fresh eye, finish your essay! :) Day 6 might be a few days or even a few weeks after you've drafted. You have the summer, so take the time to revisit and revise, read your essay aloud to yourself and/or someone else, and be sure you are happy with your product. We will also revisit your essay the first week of English 12--no matter which course you are taking.</p>

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If writing the college essay, copy and paste the prompt to which you will be responding here. (Copy and paste it from the [website](#).)

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Begin writing your essay/personal narrative below: