

The College Essay

Due: 1.10.20

Who: everyone (even if you have already gone through the essay-writing process, have a private college essay “tutor,” or are applying to colleges with no essay requirement).

Why? To get you going on your essays, and to give you feedback on one essay if you want feedback. I will only give you feedback on your writing if you ask me to do so, and the feedback will be given in a meeting you schedule during office hours.

Which prompt? Any prompt you wish. If you are applying to colleges with no essay requirement, use one of the [2019-20 Common App prompts](#) (prompts are reviewed/changed every other year):

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. 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.
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.

Please be sure to put the college names the essay will be used for and the whole prompt at the top of your essay so I can give you relevant feedback.

Value: 50 culminating points. Everyone who turns in the essay on time will earn 50/50 points.

How do I turn it in? Submit your essay to [turnitin.com](#), and email Matheny to let her know that you have done so and **IF YOU WANT FEEDBACK**. I will not check for your essay—you have to let me know it has been submitted to get credit or feedback.