

English 12
Required Summer Writing Assignment
2019 Application Essay

Statistics show that upon graduation, most JCHS seniors will further their education by attending a four or two year college or a vocational-technical school. Consider the type of college or school to which you may plan on applying. Go onto the internet, locate college web sites and review their applications. Select an essay topic from a school you are interested in or from the topics listed below and complete a 5+ paragraph personal essay. **This essay will be due to your English teacher on the second day of class. For your first draft, you do not need to adhere to the word count, but you should be aware of it.**

2018-2019 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. 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.

FYI from the Common App Site: During the 2018-2019 application year, the most popular topic of choice was: "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." (24.1%). The next most popular topics were: "Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others." (23.7%), followed by "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?" (21.1%).

"The prompts as they exist today offer a broad range of approaches, accommodating students with a diverse set of experiences and ideas about the world to respond in a thoughtful and illuminating manner," said Ian Watson, Associate Director of College Counseling at The Rivers School (Weston, MA).

Specific college essays: (check the website to be certain of individual college topics and specifications)

2. Rutgers University:

Rutgers requires that you provide a short essay that is your original work. Visit their website to see the 5 choices

3. **Montclair State University: Essay/Personal Statement Question:** Explain your reasons for seeking admission to Montclair State University, including what you believe are your academic strengths and interests. Be sure to explain any situations that may have had an impact, either positively or negatively, on your academic record. Students interested in sending a resume of extracurricular activities, volunteer work, internships, etc. can include it in the same document as their essay.

4. For County College of Morris or Essex County College:

Please explain your interest in this college. Who or what encouraged your interest and what do you hope to accomplish through the program you have selected.

5. For Vocational/Technical Schools

Vocational/Technical Schools require that students be strongly motivated to attend on a regular basis and be interested in a specific career or field of study. Explain your long and short term goals in attending this school and why you feel this program best suits your needs.

6. **Optional choice:** If you go on line and locate the current application question for a school to which you plan to make application, you may use that essay question. Be sure to indicate the school and the topic question.

Focus Correction Areas on the Scoring Rubric will address the following elements:

- ❖ Essay responds to a specific question written on top of page.
- ❖ Essay is organized into five or more paragraphs.
- ❖ Essay is organized in a coherent and logical manner
- ❖ Paragraphs develop subtopics logically and thoroughly
- ❖ A deeper meaning or set of personal values is conveyed. Essay is not simply a story.
- ❖ Interesting and unique aspects of your individuality and life experiences are conveyed in the essay.
- ❖ Specific details are given to accentuate narrative/discussion
- ❖ Essay is free from grammatical and mechanical errors.