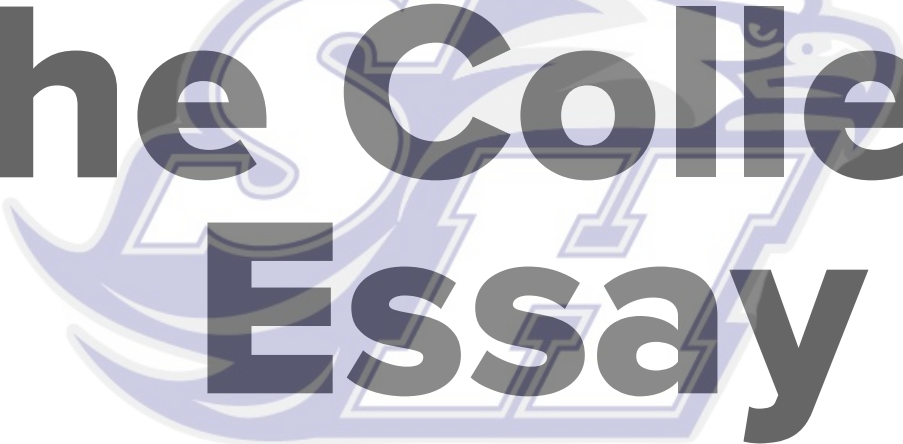


A large, stylized logo in the background, featuring a dark blue 'S' and 'B' intertwined, with an eagle's head profile on the right side. The logo is semi-transparent and set against a dark grey background.

# the college application essay

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you are the best you that I know



# The College Essay

The goal:

The process:

My advice:

The questions:



# Common App has announced the 2021-2022 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.



COALITION  
FOR COLLEGE

1.

Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

2.

Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.

3.

Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?

4.

What is the hardest part of being a student now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?

5.

Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

**Note the  
similarities!!!**



2 purposes of the application essay

Who are you?

Can you write?

2 schools of thought on prepping

Research

Don't muddy the waters



**the topic**



**personal/not private!**



# getting started

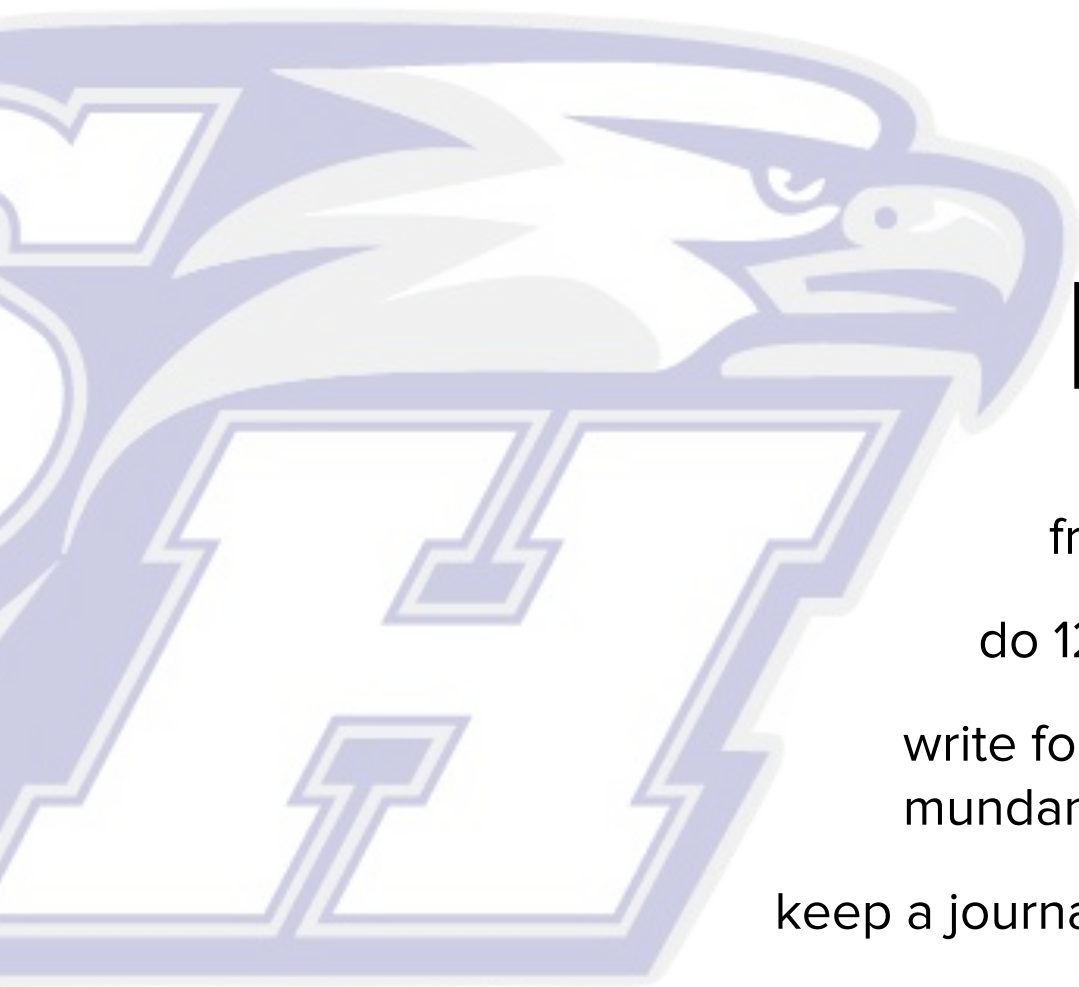
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brainstorm, brainstorm, brainstorm

what do you care about?

address Bauld's "Obsessions list"

keep a journal of ideas, kernels, germs



# keep going

---

freewrite, freewrite, freewrite

do 12 minutes on the topic from the OL

write for 10 minutes about the most  
mundane portion of your day

keep a journal of ideas, kernels, germs



# Understand...it's a process

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drafting is a thing

resting is a must

you will hate it for a while

you should love it for longer

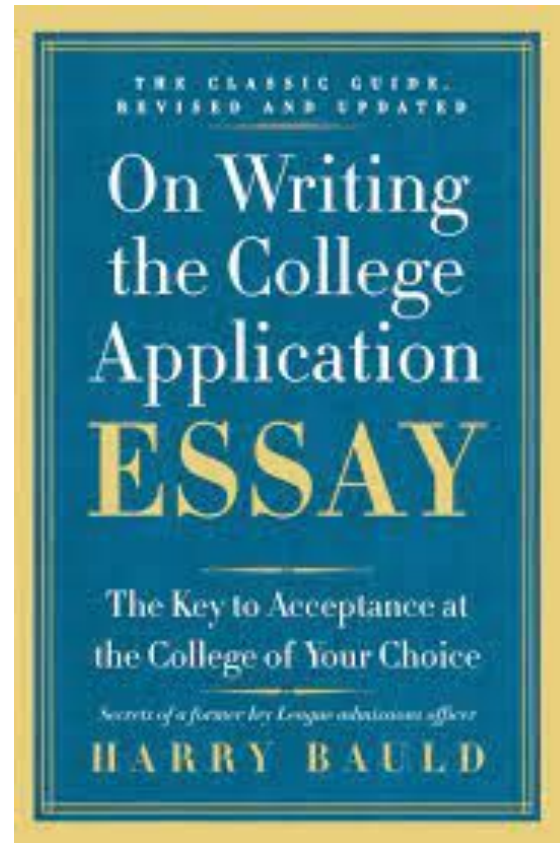
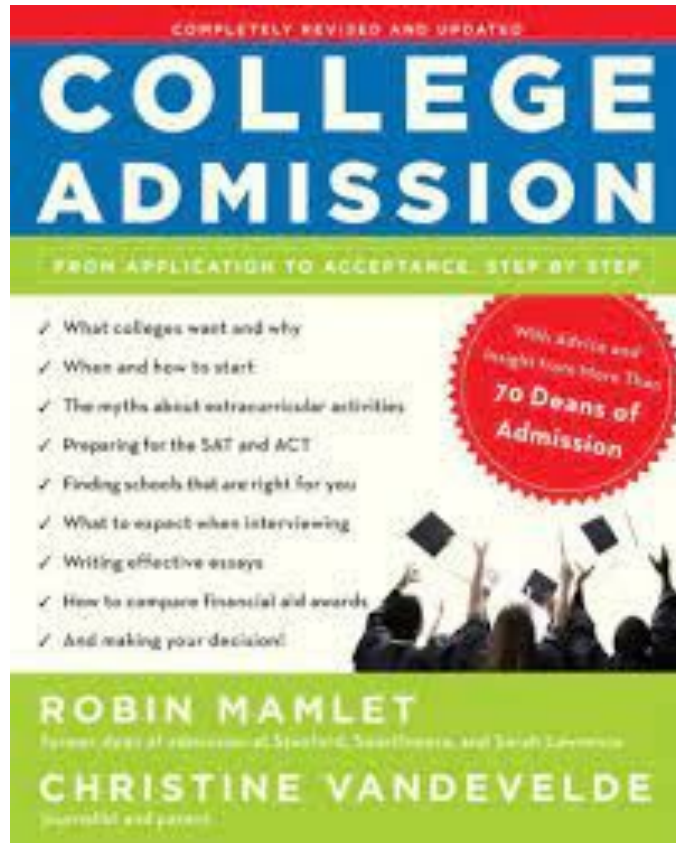
# resources

## 50 Successful IVY LEAGUE Application Essays

4th  
EDITION

*INCLUDING* advice from college admissions officers and the 25 essay mistakes that guarantee failure

GEN and KELLY TANABE  
Harvard graduates and authors of the #1 bestselling scholarship guide *The Ultimate Scholarship Book*





**start writing**

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you be you!