

ENGLISH IV College Application Essay Project

As noted in the summer reading letter, so that we can help you get ready for the college application process, you are to complete **two typed essays** by responding to any **one of the prompts from Part A and the prompt labeled as B**. This will ensure that you get help in perfecting your essays before they are sent to the colleges and universities to which you will apply. This work is a requirement for English IV and you will receive course credit for completion and submission of your essays. The responses are to be submitted to your English IV Instructor as follows:

- the response to one prompt from **Part A--Monday of the 2nd week of school**
- the response to **Prompt B--Monday of the 3rd week of school**.

Most colleges require a 150-250 word essay be included with a student's application. Below are a few questions you might find on an application. These questions were pulled from applications your Western peers submitted in 2007 to their colleges. Most likely, you will be applying to the same colleges, so it is to your advantage to take careful note of the questions asked below. You cannot just “swing” a college essay. A lot of time, effort, and thought should be put into developing each answer. It is smart to perfect one essay that answers one of the following questions, so that you can use it with a number of college application forms.

Sample College Essay Questions--A

1. Discuss some issues of local, national, or international concern and their importance to you.
2. Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
3. A range of academic interests, personal perspective, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or describe an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
4. Civility is defined as the act of showing regard for others. Moral reasoning is the ability to evaluate the goodness or rightness of human action in a moral situation. In what ways are civility and moral reasoning interrelated? How can they benefit society?

Some universities have very specific questions to answer that relate to the academic and cultural environment of that specific campus. Below you will find a more specialized question, which will be found on some of the smaller, private college application forms. Please recognize “X College” as a substitute for the real college’s name.

Sample College Essay Question--B

Colleges, like people, have personalities and characteristics. “X College” was founded for high purposes: to educate students in the “useful” arts and sciences through interaction with the world, so that they might become leaders and true citizens of the world. Describe your specific goals, and – using what you know about X College’s distinctive character, top programs, and campus environment – describe how X College will facilitate the fulfillment of these goals, as well as how your personality and character will fit with X College.

Please do not think your essay writing stops with your college application. There are a number of scholarships available to Western High School students that you should all take advantage of. You can pick-up the 2008 scholarship packet from the CollegeBound office. In this packet, you will find over 50 scholarships for which your peers applied – including community service scholarships, academic scholarships, and cultural scholarships. These scholarships will NOT change much next year, so it is to your advantage to look at some of the requirements, and start compiling your materials for scholarships. You can begin applying for scholarships as early as September of your Senior year.