

Class of 2021
College Essay Assignment

In addition to summer reading, **all rising seniors** are required to write one college application essay. Both instructor and student will continue to edit and revise these essays during the first two weeks of school. **This essay will be due on the first day of class.**

College Essay Assignment

Rising seniors will be required to submit a college essay upon their arrival back to Frederica Academy in August. The essay must be between 250-650 words. Below are the seven Common Application essay prompts. Choose either one of the prompts below OR one for the college(s) to which you plan to apply.

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.

Directions: To help you better develop a strong, personal response to the Common App essay prompts, spend a few minutes answering the questions below. Once you have answered these questions, decide which prompt will best help you showcase yourself. This essay is, more than anything else, an opportunity for you to show college admissions directors what makes **you uniquely you**, so spend some time reflecting this summer!

1. What qualities and characteristics most define you? Why are these qualities important to know when understanding who you are? (Examples: humor, integrity, ambition, curiosity, creativity, etc.) Don't focus on what you think the colleges want to see; rather, think about who you are or who you want to become.
2. Tell a story about yourself that gives an example of a time when you exhibited one or two of the qualities above. The story does not have to be completely accurate as long as it doesn't take too much liberty with the truth.
3. Look at what you've written, and review the Common App prompts. Which prompt will help you best capture those qualities that make you uniquely you? Write your response.

A couple of things to remember:

- Unless you have a truly compelling story, avoid writing about the pandemic, COVID 19, or the quarantine.
- Your essay alone will not get you into college nor will it keep you out of college. It is merely another point of information. However, it can be what sways an admissions director who is ambivalent about you.
- Don't limit yourself to those "big days," like playoffs, bar mitzvahs, death of a loved one, etc. A story about the mundane can be just as revealing. Click [here](#) to read an essay about a trip to Costco.
- Metaphors are often excellent ways to draw parallels between the qualities you want to highlight and the story you tell. See if a metaphor emerges, and go with it.
- The essay must have a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Be mindful of the audience (college admissions directors), purpose (getting into college), and tone (your attitude about getting into college) as you write this response.
- The more time you spend writing this essay this summer, the less time you will have to spend when school begins. Take the time to start the process!