

UConn Early College Experience (ECE Literature)

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2020 – 2021

GOOGLE CLASSROOM REGISTRATION:

- Please register for my ECE Literature Google Classroom site using the class code: **fyhxfbd**.
- All communication over the summer will happen through this platform, so be sure you have turned on your notification settings to be alerted when new information and reminders are posted.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS:

Since many of you will likely apply early-action or early-decision and consequently may have already begun your college essays, limited instructional time will be spent on them. **You will submit your first draft of your essay through Google Classroom on Monday, August 17, 2020** . If you have not yet started your college essay, then you must write one in response to a prompt either from the Common Application or from a school-generated application. Please include the question that you are answering at the top of the page and be mindful of mandated word-count limits. (See the 2020-2021 Common Application prompts and writing tips below.) When we begin classes in September, I will return your first drafts with comments and we will look at many samples of successful college essays from former students so that you may take your essay through necessary revision(s) well before the October-November application deadlines. Please double-space the text and use Times New Roman, 12-point font (per MLA 8th edition guidelines).

2020-2021 Common Application Essay Prompts

650-word limit

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.

College Application Essay Tips

- Choose a subject that you feel is important.
- Write many rough drafts.
- Stay on topic; when applicable, make your essay specific to each school.
- Include details that make you unique.
- Make sure you have fluent, logical structure.
- Be interesting; do not ramble.
- Use proper spelling, grammar, and usage.
- Write something you would want to read.
- Do not criticize or complain about the task of having to write an essay.
- Speak with clarity.
- If you are not funny, do not try to be.
- Put yourself in the position of the reader.
- Have one clear descriptive idea, not a bunch of separate examples.
- Make details precise and original.
- Before editing, complete careful revision. Look for what is missing or what can be removed.
- Write honestly about something you feel strongly about.
- Cut out the fillers; don't just say what you think they want to hear.
- Answer all questions being asked.
- Be meticulous with final editing.
- Let people help edit your essay, but not your voice!

READING TITLE: *1984* by George Orwell

- Copies of the book are available to borrow, but you may choose to purchase your own copy. Please contact Ms. Kwan if you need to borrow a book.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR *1984*:

Formal Annotation Log:

- As you read the novel *1984* by George Orwell, you will keep a **typed** annotation log, **carefully noting important passages** in preparation for writing and discussion.
- Annotations should include **quotations/passages** (cited with page number) as well as your own, **original analysis** for each passage that you choose.
- Annotations should be clearly **segmented by part number and chapter number** (i.e. Part One, Ch. IV); aim for approximately two to three annotations per chapter.
- Annotations should be **thematically focused on rebellion**; consider what motivates a person to rebel against the social order, especially when his or her well-being is at risk. You may explore this conflict through the protagonist Winston Smith, his paramour Julia, or both characters.
- Submit your completed annotation log to **Google Classroom** by our first day of classes on **Monday, August 31, 2020**; if we end up returning in person, please also bring the printed copy to class.

Inquiry on Rebellion:

- Locate at least three valid news articles, from reputable publications, which exemplify current examples of people who have rebelled against the social order and/or against a system which controls them. Your articles should be current, ideally written within the last year or two, about *three different events*, not three sources about the same event.
- Choose your articles with the book in mind; be prepared to compare the characters' motivations to your current news example during our discussions. Ideally, as you research, you should explore parallels and contrasts between one's motivation for rebellion as depicted in the novel and as exemplified in the real world.
- Print your articles to bring to class on our first day; if we do not begin the year in person, I will have you upload the links to your articles to Google Classroom by **August 31st**.