



WOODINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 2021

Senior Presentations





COUNSELORS

Mrs. Miller	A - C
Mrs. Lamb	D - H
Mr. Churchill	I - Mi
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Mrs. Brenner	Si - Z



Post Secondary Planning

- Options after High School
- How to Apply to College
- Letters of Recommendation
- College Essay info
- Scholarships and FAFSA
- ACT and SAT testing





Now is a great time to start thinking about your Post Graduation Plan!

Some common options:

- Community College, Technical College
- 4 Year University
- Military
- Workforce
- Travel/personal enrichment/volunteer (known as a GAP year)





Thinking about college?

Resources for Narrowing Down your College List:

- Supermatch through your Naviance Account
- Niche.com
- Bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Can't visit the campus in person??? Here are some options for virtual tours!

- Campustours.com
- Visit College websites for virtual tours of their campuses



Application Platforms



Apply Directly to
the University

common
app



Coalition

Applying Directly To A University



Some schools have their own application process through their website.

Some examples of schools who use their own application process:

- Washington State University
- Western Washington University
- Central Washington University
- Eastern Washington University
- University of California system
- California State University System
- University of Arizona
- Northern Arizona University
- Arizona State University (also uses Common App and Coalition to apply)
- Boise State University

Some schools will use their own platform but will also have ways to apply via Common Application and/or Coalition. Choose which platform works best for you, especially if many of your colleges use the same platform.



Key Points about Common App

Website: www.commonapp.org

- 800+ Schools use the Common Application
- Common App Essay Prompts + Individual Schools may have their own set of questions
- Everything can be organized in one place
- Create a main profile where you only have to fill out info once + add supplemental info required by individual schools



Key Points about Coalition



Website: Coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

- The word “coalition” in the name refers to the group of about 95 universities, including all the Ivy League schools, Stanford, and many prestigious private and public universities that created this new application
- Intent of this app was to diversify applicant pool
- Has own set of Essay Prompts
- Colleges such as the University of Washington use Coalition

Early Decision

vs

Early Action



ED - Binding

- ▶ Apply early to only one school
- ▶ Receive decision by December
- ▶ Commit to that college
- ▶ Receive financial aid package
- ▶ Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans
- ▶ Withdraw all other applications if accepted

EA - Non-Binding

- ▶ Apply early
- ▶ Receive a decision by Jan or Feb
- ▶ Do not have to commit upon decision
- ▶ Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans

There are typically three ways to apply to colleges: Regular Decision, Early Decision and Early Action. ED and EA program specifics vary, so students should get information as soon as possible directly from the admission staff at their first-choice college. Early Decision and Early Action deadlines usually are in the fall. Please make sure to read about all of the expectations on the college website when applying Early Action or Early Decision.

Letters of Recommendation



Some schools ask for Letters of Recommendation (LOR) from a counselor and/or teacher(s). These letters speak to your academic skills and character.

**WOODINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL -
Letter of Recommendation Form**
Must be submitted 14 School Days Prior to Application Deadline

Name: _____ Student #: _____ Email: _____ Cell: _____

Today's Date _____ First Deadline _____ SAT _____ ACT _____ CUM GPA _____

_____ I **DO** waive my rights to view the "Letter of Recommendation" and I understand any information disclosed in this form may be used in the "LOR" to colleges and/or scholarship committees.

_____ I do **NOT** waive my rights to view the "Letter of Recommendation"

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Please include questions with your answers on a separate sheet.

1. Please provide three adjectives teachers would use and explain their importance.
2. What are three personal strengths? How have they helped you?
3. What awards have you received during your high school years?
4. Share three things of which you are proud.
5. Share three things that would surprise me about you.
6. Describe the activities you have participated in?
7. How have you contributed positively to your community?
8. Describe the community service and/or jobs you have held.
9. Describe yourself as a learner and speak to your potential as a scholar.
10. What career and/or major will you pursue and experiences you've had in that field?
11. Describe a unique experience that had an impact on your life.
12. What do you hope I will mention in this recommendation?

Bring a copy of this "Letter of Recommendation Form" to Counselor and/or teachers.
Packet should include the following:

- 1) This form - with information provided and waiver signed
- 2) Answers to the above questions
- 3) Resume (Recommended)
- 4) College Essay (Recommended)
- 5) Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) - If your college requires MAILING your letter please provide SASE for each request. Counselor/Teacher will mail letter straight to your college using the SASE you provide for each school. This does not apply to Common Application Schools.

If you have any questions, please see your counselor.

Letters of Recommendation (con't)



Counselor's LOR:

- First look: does your college require a Counselor LOR?
- Yes? Ask your counselor for a Letter of Recommendation Form
- Waiving your rights makes your letter of recommendation more authentic
- Please give us 2 weeks notice, prior to an application deadline, to complete your letter.

Teacher's LOR:

- Diversify content area (i.e.: pick an English and Math teacher, or a Science or History teacher, especially if pursuing those fields as majors)
- Ask teachers who know you best
- Ask early! some teachers have a cap as to how many students they write letters for
- Please give teachers a 2-3 week advance notice (at least) before your first deadline
- Make sure to say thank you!



College Essay

The majority of colleges, especially those using Common Application and Coalition, will require that you submit an essay as a part of the application process.

- Familiarize yourself with the essay prompts and start composing your essay this summer!
- Essay prompts may also vary with schools who use their own platforms so make sure to take a look at their specific websites for further details.
- We recommend asking for teacher/counselor feedback on your essay prior to submission.

The next two slides will give you examples of the Essay prompts that are used by the Common Application and Coalition.

Common Application Essay Prompts



The 2020-2021 Common Application Essay Prompts are as follows:

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.

Coalition Essay Prompts



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.



It's Never too Early to Start Searching for Scholarships!

In addition to Financial Aid packages, there are other ways to pay for college.

There are a variety of scholarships out there and we encourage you to use the summer to start exploring all of the scholarship possibilities!



Where can I search for scholarships?

\$\$ Scholarship Foundation of Northshore

\$\$ Washboard.org

\$\$ Fastweb.com

\$\$ Naviance

\$\$ Bigfuture.collegeboard.org

\$\$ Scholarships.com

We highly recommend starting an excel spreadsheet to help you keep track of scholarship expectations and deadlines.



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The 2020-2021 FAFSA is available on OCTOBER 1
<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

- **Must have an FSA ID before starting your FAFSA**
<https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- **All students should apply**
- **First-come, first-serve financial aid at colleges**



What about SAT and ACT Testing?

-Some schools are moving to a “testing-optional” status this year. Some schools are not requiring standardized scores at all. Review your college application websites for school specific expectations.

-It's not too late to test! Check out **Collegereadiness.collegeboard.org** for SAT dates and registration details and **ACT.org** for upcoming ACT dates.

-Should you test, request to have your Official ACT/SAT scores (if required) sent to your schools.



Other things to know:

- Class ranking will be available in October of 2021
- WHS uses a “non-weighted” GPA

Reach out to your counselor for support
We are here to help you!