**Unit Title: Career**
**Topic: College Application Essay**

**Grade Level: 11-12**
**Lesson Sequence: 1 of 3**
**Brainstorming Essay Topic**

**Lesson Objectives:** 1.) Brainstorming and selecting a college essay topic
2.) Writing a successful college application essay that reveals writing ability as well as ability to think

**EALR's Addressed: Writing: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1-3.5, 4.1,and 4.2.**

| Time | Activity | Procedures | Supplies |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 min. | Introduce College essay; Students write or discuss answers to provided scenario | Imagine yourself a dean of prestigious college or university who has to sift through a gigantic pile of applicants from hundreds of equally qualified students around the country. Now you have to sift through this pile and pick only a handful to compose the new freshmen class. What do you do to ferret out these select students? What criteria make or break a student's chances at attending your school? Message: Your essay makes a difference!! | Paper |
| 5-10 min. | Discuss importance of essay | Without thoughtful, complex, clear, and unique essay—can't come to life for an admission's officer. Essay Is a critical component of application— 1.) Can go a long way to offset mediocre SAT scores. 2.) It can make or break your application. Tip balance between "admit" "wait-list" or "reject." 3.) Opportunity to illustrate writing ability as well as ability to think. Provides an opportunity to project clearer sense of what makes you tick, your interests, background, even your personality. 4.) Reveal your uniqueness in an essay, reflect on your lives, and display your creativity. Place on application form where you can have freedom to be creative and even have some fun! 5.) Shows admission's staff you are just too good to turn down! Write your way into | Write/discuss reasons why important on board or overhead |

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| | | **the college of your choice!** | |
| **10 min.** | **Brainstorm subject ideas for admissions essay** | **Individually, answer brainstorming questions to discover subject ideas to write a good essay.** | **Brainstorming Essay Topic Handout 1** |
| **5 min.** | **Wrap-up: Review student brainstorming answers and revisit why coming up with a good idea makes/ breaks essay** | **Coming up with a good idea is difficult and requires time, but it is critical to writing a successful application essay. Without a topic you feel passionate about, without one that brings out the defining aspects of your personality, you risk sounding like 90 percent of the applicants who write boring admissions essay. You need a unique essay that truly conveys a real and memorable sense of who you are!** | |