

JUNIOR
JUMPSTART
MEETING
2023



The Common Application Essay



THE WRITING CENTER & THE COLLEGE ESSAY

1. Lunch time conferences
2. Individualized help in any part of the process...
3. Workshops
4. Individual learning conferences

**Over 200 college essay conferences this school year.

College Essay Is

- 1. A personal narrative**
- 2. Introduction to you!**
- 3. Writing sample**

College Essay Is Not

1. A list of accomplishments
2. A place to show off
3. Inauthentic
4. A product of an AI Chatbox

Topics...what
not to write
about!

Anything unoriginal...

- a. Camp
- b. Grandparent
issues
- c. Covid
- d. Awards

2023-24 COMMON APPLICATION ESSAY PROMPT

On the Common App website, it states that “prompts are not topics. They are simply questions designed to spark thinking.”

- 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. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?**
- 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**

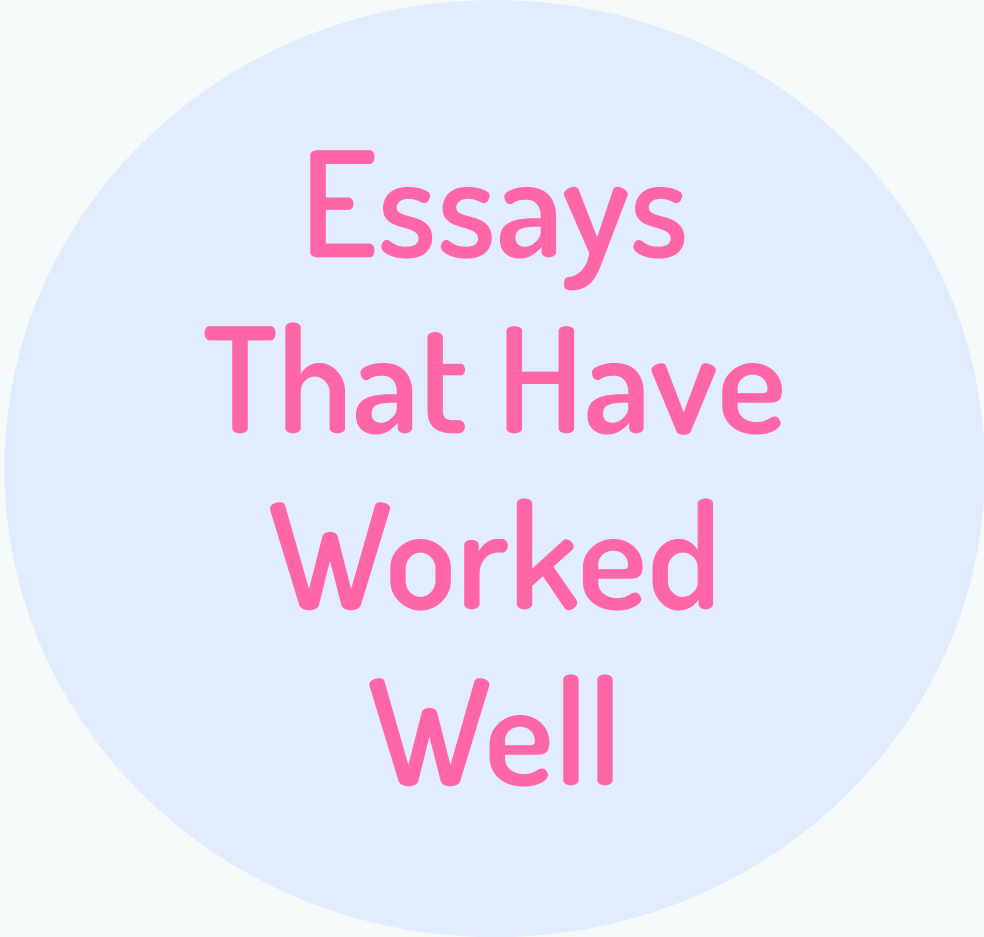
COVID OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENT



Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces.

Do you wish to share anything on this topic? Y/N

Please use this space to describe how these events have impacted you.



Essays That Have Worked Well

- **Essays that possess humility and candor.**
- **Essays that find significance in the ordinary.**
- **Essays that convey an authentic sense of the individual.**

Sample Essay

I had never broken into a car before.

We were in Laredo, having just finished our first day at a Habitat for Humanity work site. The Hotchkiss volunteers had already left, off to enjoy some Texas BBQ, leaving me behind with the college kids to clean up. Not until we were stranded did we realize we were locked out of the van.

Someone picked a coat hanger out of the dumpster, handed it to me, and took a few steps back.

"Can you do that thing with a coat hanger to unlock it?"

"Why me?" I thought.

More out of amusement than optimism, I gave it a try. I slid the hanger into the window's seal like I'd seen on crime shows, and spent a few minutes jiggling the apparatus around the inside of the frame. Suddenly, two things simultaneously clicked. One was the lock on the door. (I actually succeeded in springing it.) **The other was the realization that I'd been in this type of situation before. In fact, I'd been born into this type of situation.**

**Anecdote --
Personal
Narrative
mode**

**Reflection,
realization,
dawning
awareness**

My upbringing has numbed me to unpredictability and chaos. With a family of seven, my home was loud, messy, and spottily supervised. My siblings arguing, the dog barking, the phone ringing all meant my house was functioning normally. My Dad, a retired Navy pilot, was away half the time. When he was home, he had a parenting style something like a drill sergeant. At the age of nine, I learned how to clear burning oil from the surface of water. My Dad considered this a critical life skill-you know, in case my aircraft carrier should ever get torpedoed. "The water's on fire! Clear a hole!" he shouted, tossing me in the lake without warning. While I'm still unconvinced about that particular lesson's practicality, my Dad's overarching message is unequivocally true: much of life is unexpected, and you have to deal with the twists and turns.

Living in my family, days rarely unfolded as planned. A bit overlooked, a little pushed around, I learned to roll with reality, negotiate a quick deal, and give the improbable a try. I don't sweat the small stuff, and I definitely don't expect perfect fairness. So what if our dining room table only has six chairs for seven people? Someone learns the importance of punctuality every night.

But more than punctuality and a special affinity for musical chairs, my family life has taught me to thrive in situations over which I have no power. Growing up, I never controlled my older siblings, but I learned how to thwart their attempts to control me. I forged alliances, and realigned them as necessary. Sometimes, I was the poor, defenseless little brother; sometimes I was the omniscient elder. Different things to different people, as the situation demanded. I learned to adapt.

Narrative detail balanced with personal insight

How does the candidate think? Process experience? See the world?

Humor

Sense of the individual

Sample Essay

Back then, these techniques were merely reactions undertaken to ensure my survival. But one day this fall, Dr. Hicks, our Head of School, asked me a question that he hoped all seniors would reflect on throughout the year: "How can I participate in a thing I do not govern, in the company of people I did not choose?"

The question caught me off guard, much like the question posed to me in Laredo. Then, I realized I knew the answer. I knew why the coat hanger had been handed to me.

Growing up as the middle child in my family, I was a vital participant in a thing I did not govern, in the company of people I did not choose. It's family. It's society. And often, it's chaos. You participate by letting go of the small stuff, not expecting order and perfection, and facing the unexpected with confidence, optimism, and preparedness. My family experience taught me to face a serendipitous world with confidence.

**Develop-
ment of a
key idea**

Candor

**Original
and
creative
treatment
of an
ordinary
idea.**



STRATÉGIES
PROBLÈMES MATHS
Lis et souligne la question.
Entoure les nombres, lettres et signes.
Encadre les mots clés.
Note ce que tu vas chercher et la cible de l'opération.
Résous le problème :
Fais un dessin ou un schéma.
Fais l'opération et attache le résultat à la phrase réponse.
Vérifie que la réponse a du sens.

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Je peux
Je dois
Mémento

Lecture
Écriture
Calcul

Tableau interactif,
ne pan douze de mes
2020
Nous se reconnecter de
local
à nos vacances !!

Tableau d'affichage avec divers documents et images.

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COVID-19





“We are grateful for the feedback we received from our college and university members and the counseling community about how to help students share how the current health crisis has impacted them personally and educationally. The goal is to have a central place for students and counselors to describe their experiences due to COVID-19 only once while providing colleges and universities the information they need to understand each student’s unique context.”

— Jenny Rickard, President & CEO, Common App

UCs ditch the SAT and ACT – set out to make a “fairer” standardized test

How will the SAT and ACT make it through the coronavirus?

College Board Scraps Plans for SAT at Home

Some colleges drop SAT/ACT requirements amid coronavirus pandemic



THIS MONTH'S HEADLINES

What you can be doing now!



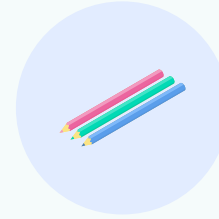
Essay

Use the summer to choose the prompt that speaks to you, brainstorm your topic, structure your essay, draft, and revise



Research

Although you can't go visit colleges at the moment, you do have access to important resources that will help you start narrowing your college list.



Be Creative

Find productive ways to enhance your resume and create meaningful experiences.

Research

College websites are frequently updated with new information. Go to college websites directly to sign up for virtual tours and info sessions and interviews.

Check out social media accounts for specific clubs and groups on college campuses to get a student perspective. Consider reaching out to a Ardsley High School alum.

Check out websites that provide specific college information in different contexts. A list will be posted in the Guidance Google Classroom.



Be Creative!

*With the decline in summer job and internship opportunities, find productive ways to enhance your resume and create meaningful experiences. Invest time in a passion project, search YouTube for design videos, Zoom-tutor your neighbor. **This is the time for creativity!***



Teacher Recommendations

- **Who knows you best as a student?**
- **Things to Consider:**
 - Ask in advance
 - Provide requested information
 - 2 Teacher Recs, 1 Counselor Rec
 - Submission through Naviance
 - Write a "Thank You" note

Brag Sheets and Junior Meetings



AHS Junior Parent Brag Sheet

As a parent, you have valuable information that can assist us in writing the most thorough recommendation for your child. You have spent more hours with your child than any person and can therefore provide important personal insights. Thank you for sharing!

Student Biographical Info.

- List the two or three most pertinent events or circumstances that have shaped your child's personal or family history.
- We are sure that she/he has many, but what do you consider to be your child's greatest achievement to date? What skills did she/he utilize to achieve that goal?
- List your child's three most important non-academic interests and experiences; be sure to include descriptions and details that show commitment, growth, success, or leadership.
- What three adjectives best describe your child? Please explain.
- Colleges often want us to assess students in areas of leadership, confidence, maturity, warmth of personality, dedication to others, and contribution to the community. How would you describe your child in these areas? Please provide supporting examples.
- Please share a recent story or event that best illustrates a quality that is central to your child's personality.
- What is the single most important thing you want colleges to know about your child?

Academic Setting.

- How does your child learn best?
- What are your child's greatest strengths?
- What are your child's most notable academic and/or social challenges?
- Possible Majors or areas of academic interest.
- Desired Geographic Location.
 - Northeast: Maine to Washington, DC
 - Southeast: Virginia to Florida
 - South: Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kentucky
 - Midwest: Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin
- If there are specific colleges you have in mind for your child, please list them and tell us why you think they are appropriate choices.

Signature _____

Date _____



AHS Junior Brag Sheet

Please fill out this form as accurately and completely as possible. Don't be afraid to "brag" about yourself.

** - Check if applies.

Last name _____ First name _____ Email Address _____ Cell # _____

Name of parent/guardian _____ Name of parent/guardian _____

Who do you live with: Father Step-father Mother Step-mother
 Grandfather Grandmother Aunt Uncle Legal Guardians Others _____

Father/Guardian Place of Employment _____ Mother/Guardian Place of Employment _____

Are you the first person in your family to attend college Yes No

List siblings/if they attend college and where: 1 _____
 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Have you taken a standardized test already?: SAT Date _____ ACT Date _____
 Are you planning on taking a standardized test?: SAT Date _____ ACT Date _____

If you receive accommodations, do you hope to continue to receive them in college?: Yes No

Start Bragging!

Awards and Honors:

| Award | Reason for Award | Year received |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Example - Honor Society</i> | <i>Receiving a 3.5 GPA or above.</i> | <i>2016-2018</i> |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Athletics:

| Sports | Grades | Position/Leadership Role |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Example - Girls Varsity Volleyball Team</i> | <i>10, 11</i> | <i>Varsity Captain</i> |
| | | |
| | | |

Are you hoping to play a sport in college/university? If yes, please indicate the sport and division.

| Sport | Division |
|-------|----------|
| | |

MAKE A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT IN GOOGLE DOCS AND RENAME IT. UPON COMPLETION, SHARE THE DOCUMENT WITH YOUR COUNSELOR AND PROVIDE A HARD COPY AT YOUR MEETING.

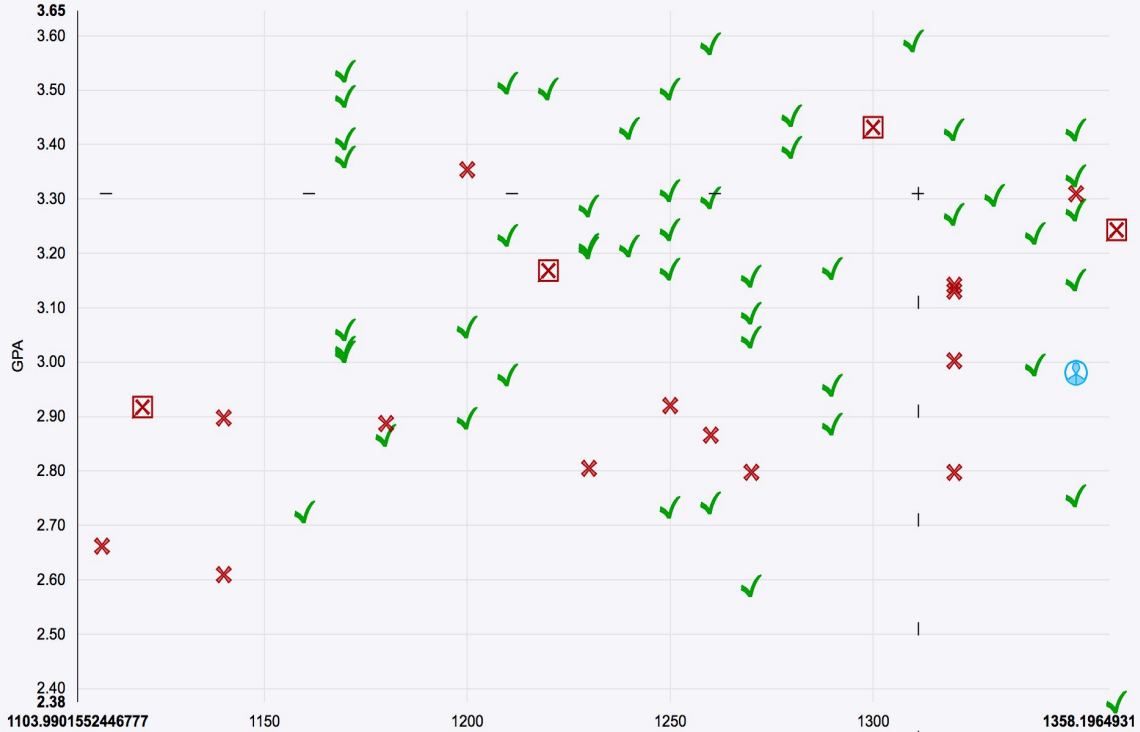
Naviance

- College Searches
- Admissions Information
- Keeping Track of Applications
- Teacher Recommendations
- Notification of Materials Sent
- College Rep Visits
- Update Decisions



Scattergrams | Applications for Ardsley High School i

Comparing Unweighted GPA with SAT (1600) v

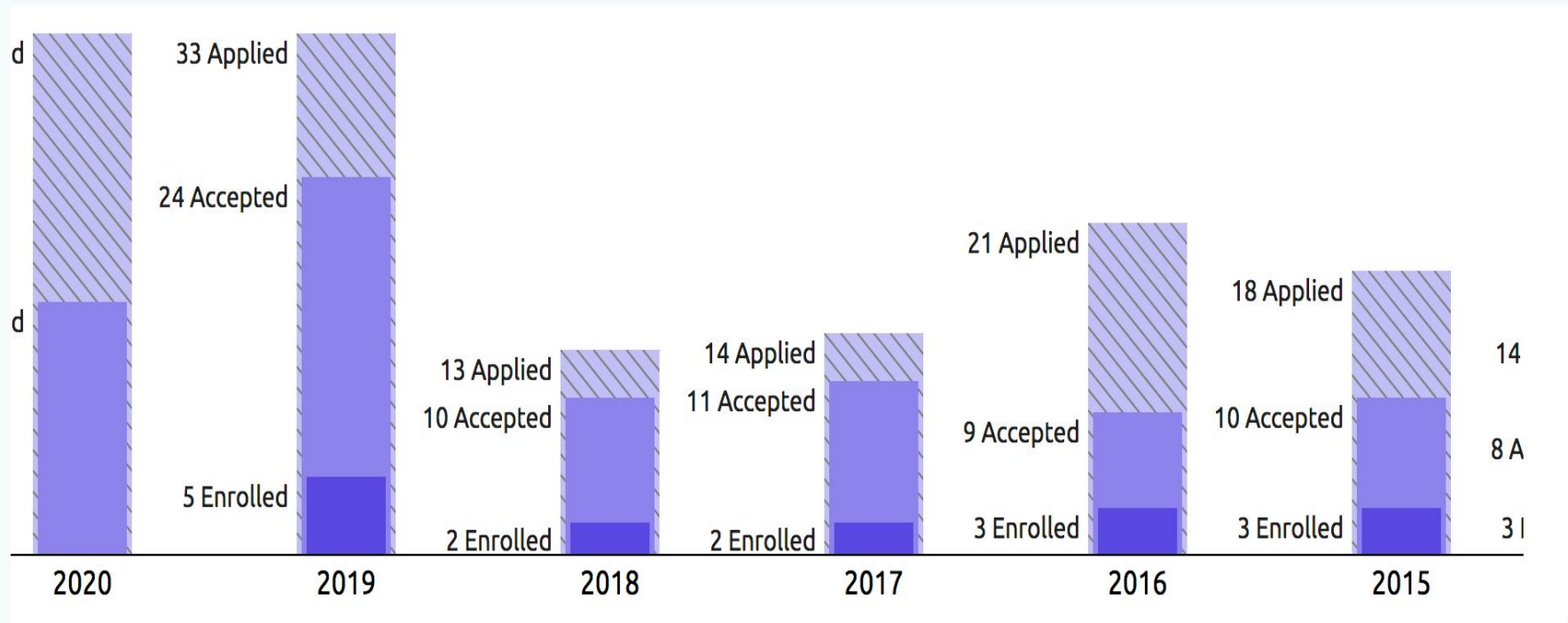


Scattergrams

Graph Legend

- Accepted
- Denied
- Waitlisted or Deferred
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)

Your School's Application History



Naviance Search



Overview

Studies

Student Life

Admissions

Costs

STUDENT FACULTY RATIO

16:1

Number of students for every one teacher at the institution

from 2020

AVERAGE CLASSROOM SIZE

30

Average number of students in a given course or classroom

from 2020

STUDENT RETENTION

93%

Percentage of students who return their sophomore year

from 2020

JOB PLACEMENT RATE

64%

Within

6 Months

Students who find employment after graduation

from 2020

DEGREES OFFERED

Certificate
Associate's
Bachelor's
Graduate Certificate
Master's
Doctorate
Online programs available
from 2020

Top Areas of Study

Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services

Engineering

Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs

Social Sciences

Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences

Latest available data from 2017

Naviance Search

STUDENTS WHO APPLY TO


Pennsylvania State University

57894 applications



Also apply to...

University of Maryland-Coll...

 216 miles from your school



 [View Favorites](#)

Also apply to...

University of Delaware


 136 miles from your school



 [View Favorites](#)

Also apply to...


Drexel University

 102 miles from your school



Also apply to...

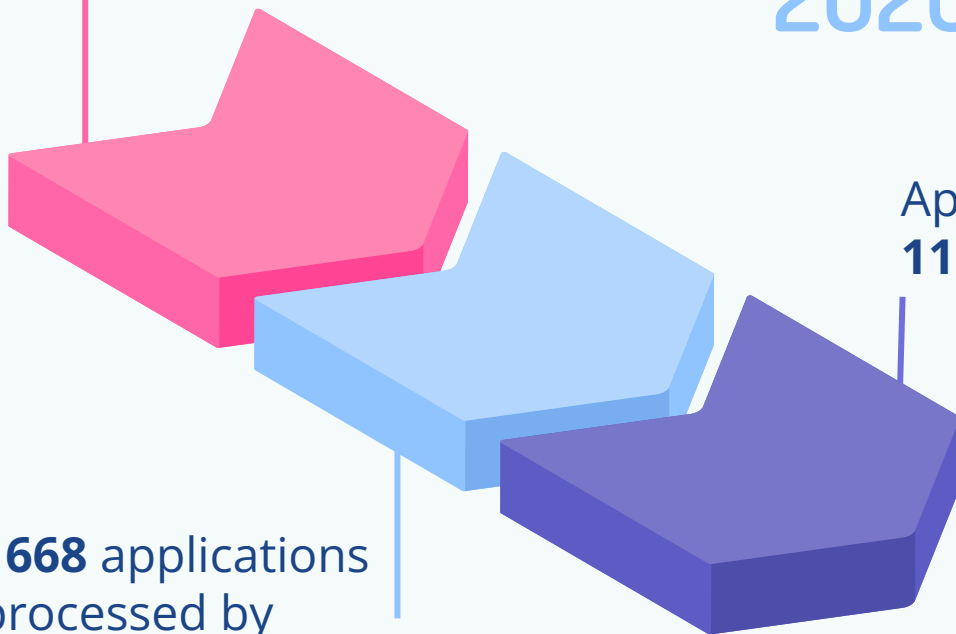
Boston University

 169 miles from your school



College Counseling News for the Class of 2020

147 students applied to
288 institutions and to
date will attend **66**
schools



1668 applications
processed by
Guidance Office

Applied to an average of
11 colleges

Q & A

