

SUMMER CONNECTIONS

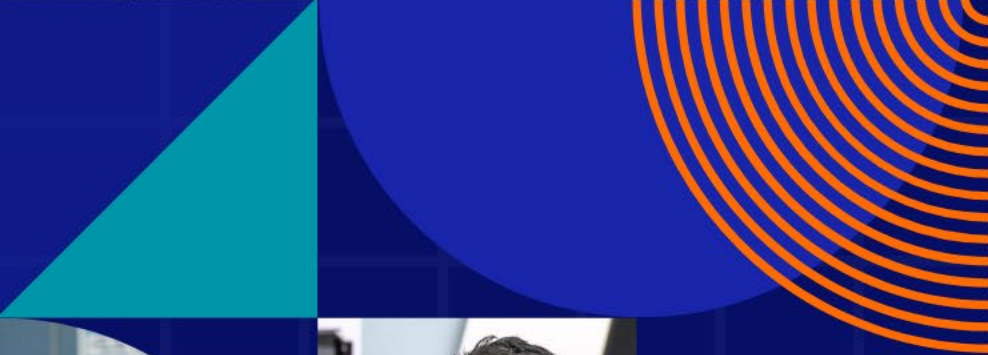
Maximizing Scholar Learning and Engagement

Thursday, February 6 | 6-7:30 pm



FEDERAL WAY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



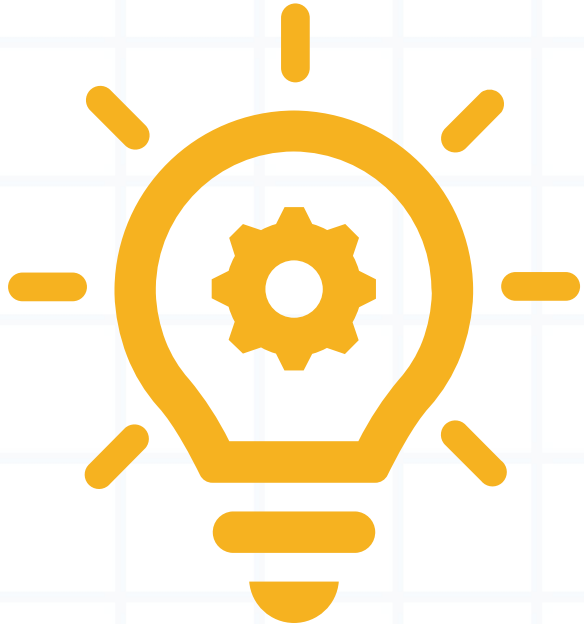


Writing a Personal Statement

Tips for your college applications

Agenda

Recipe to make your essay shine



1. Why write an essay?
2. Review examples
3. Tips and strategies
4. Considerations
5. Reminder to be yourself
6. Brainstorm

Ice Breaker

- Who has taken an AP class?
- Who plays a sport?
- Who is involved with a club?
- Who has done volunteer work?
- What other experiences have you had?



Background-Why write an essay?

- It is recommended to write a personal or college essay no later than your Junior year to begin preparing for college applications.
- Admission representatives would love to learn more about you and your story.
- This could make the difference for acceptance especially when applying for a competitive program or college.



Why or why not?



FEDERAL WAY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[illegible]

Example #2

Would this work?

After graduating Federal Way High School, I plan to attend a university. I am not sure what I will major in and don't know what I want to do after graduation.

Brief discussion: Why would or why not would this example work?

Example #2 Response

After graduating Federal Way High School, I plan to attend a university. I am not sure what I will major in and don't know what I want to do after graduation.

This example would not work because there is not enough information or detail for this essay to stand out.

EXAMPLE #3:

Would this work?

To whom ever it might concern

Hello , My name is XXXX. I am from XXXX and currently in my senior year. I am XXXX years old and study in a Secondary school. In the past i have never really given much interest into my future, i did not care about what would happen but instead what is happening in my life right now. Unfortunately i was blinded by the temptations of life at least for the better 16 years of my life. But then one day i realised to be succsesfull means that i need to work hard set forth and make my ideas happen.

I considered myself to that of a pack of wolves , each wolf a characteristic of my own whether it was my past, present future or yet devided i was. There was no leader for the pack, but luckily this past summer i went to this program in oxford called the oxford tradition, that truley changed my life. I studied there Politics and economics and through that i learnt where my future lies. In an instant i knew that i can help people with what i could learn in the future, and it is the future that i must change for the better of course.

I have four other siblings, all of them study in english programs/school except me, i guess i was the odd one out. Yet that only strengthened my reslove to get better in english and exceed them and many other students whose native language is english. I have never really given up and my way of life is "If you fall down seven times , you stand up eight" it gives me a burning desire to succeed in anything i do.

Over all i think i would be a great asset to any community , school , college. i would excel and pass many students and prove first to myself and then to everyone esle that not only i can do it but never doubted myself in the beginning.

EXAMPLE #3: Response

The spelling and grammar could limit the possibility of standing out

To whom ever it might concern

Hello , My name is XXXX. I am from XXXX and currently in my senior year. I am XXXX years old and study in a Secondary school. In the past i have never really given much interest into my future, i did not care about what would happen but instead what is happening in my life right now. Unfortunately i was blinded by the temptations of life at least for the better 16 years of my life. But then one day i realised to be succsesfull means that i need to work hard set forth and make my ideas happen.

I considered myself to that of a pack of wolves , each wolf a characteristic of my own whether it was my past, present future or yet devided i was. There was no leader for the pack, but luckily this past summer i went to this program in oxford called the oxford tradition, that truley changed my life. I studied there Politics and economics and through that i learnt where my future lies. In an instant i knew that i can help people with what i could learn in the future, and it is the future that i must change for the better of course.

I have four other siblings, all of them study in english programs/school except me, i guess i was the odd one out. Yet that only strengthened my reslove to get better in english and exceed them and many other students whose native language is english. I have never really given up and my way of life is "If you fall down seven times , you stand up eight" it gives me a burning desire to succeed in anything i do.

Over all i think i would be a great asset to any community , school , college. i would excel and pass many students and prove first to myself and then to everyone esle that not only i can do it but never doubted myself in the beginning.

EXAMPLE #4:

Would this work?

Personal Profile

I feel I am a well motivated, responsible person hoping to enroll for the degree in XXXX with a view to secure my future in this field.

Education / Qualifications

After gaining a GNVQ XXXX I wish to continue my studies to further my knowledge and skills

Employment

Having taken some time away from studying I have been employed since August 2016 as a full time mobile janitor for a contract cleaning company. I feel that I have shown commitment and responsibility.

Interests / Hobbies

I enjoy reading, using computers and generally socializing.

EXAMPLE #4 Response

This example is set up more like a resume than an essay and could potentially be overlooked

Personal Profile

I feel I am a well motivated, responsible person hoping to enroll for the degree in XXXX with a view to secure my future in this field.

Education / Qualifications

After gaining a GNVQ XXXX I wish to continue my studies to further my knowledge and skills

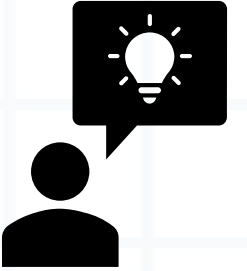
Employment

Having taken some time away from studying I have been employed since August 2016 as a full time mobile janitor for a contract cleaning company. I feel that I have shown commitment and responsibility.

Interests / Hobbies

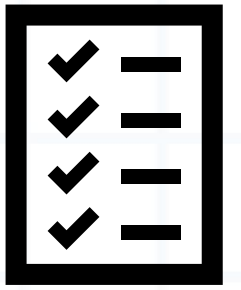
I enjoy reading, using computers and generally socializing.

Tips and strategies



- It is helpful to have essays written in the correct format
- Using spell check ensures correct spelling and grammar
- Having someone read and review your essay helps to get another perspective on possible adjustments, edits, or other considerations before submitting
- Look at college essay prompts and write your essay accordingly
- Go beyond your grade point average (GPA) and test scores
- Explain any strengths or growth areas
- Share what you are excited about
- Share activities you have been involved with
- Tell a memorable, relevant, unique, and personal story

Considerations



- Every college is different, so each personal statement should be different.
 - Admission counselors will notice if you try to use a universal essay.
- Do research about the universities or colleges you are applying to and give specific reasons why you are interested in their school.
- Make sure you read the directions carefully. Are they asking for a particular font or font size? How many words does the essay need to be?
- Answer all of the components of the essay prompt.
- Read over your essay multiple times.
- These skills are also helpful for writing a cover letter for applying for jobs.

Be Yourself

Colleges & Universities want to know about you:

- Show your qualities and challenges
- Write about family, education, talents, or passions, and about things that have shaped the person you have become.
- Essays are an opportunity to shine. Show how you are different, why you should be accepted, what you will contribute to the campus, and why you will be a good fit.



FEDERAL WAY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Questions?



Brainstorm

- Questions to ask yourself before you get started (handout).



Feedback Survey

Please help us improve by sharing your feedback about today's event through a 3-minute survey:

Encuesta posterior al evento: !Ayúdenos a mejorar!

Sau buổi sự kiện: Hãy giúp chúng tôi cải thiện!

Опрос мнения по окончании мероприятия:
Помогите нам учесть недочёты!

پست-نظرسنجی : رویداد به ما کمک می کند
بهبود یابیم!



Scan the QR code or, Visit:
www.fwps.org/FamilyAcademySurvey

Please make your way to your next breakout session

6:55-7:30 pm

WORKSHOPS

Pathways to Success:
Navigating the 2-Year and
Technical Application

Room B210

Access the School Counselor

Room B211



RESOURCE FAIR

Speak with representatives
from participating
organizations about summer
resources, childcare, and
more.

Commons