

CCP English 12

Summer Reading Assignment 2026-2027 School Year

DUE MONDAY, AUGUST 31ST

Directions: Considering the directions/instruction provided by your Junior teacher at the end of last school year, please write the first draft of your College Application Essay. You may write on any of the prompts listed below. Your first draft **MUST** be a complete essay. It must be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. You will be working with your teacher to “perfect” this piece of writing at the beginning of the school year. It is very important that you have a working rough draft of the college essay by the due date! Although the word limit is 650 words, please tell your story thoroughly. Your English teacher will help you with word count as needed.

Students who use AI for any portion of this work, including tools that fix/enhance writing like Grammarly, will be turned in to Mr. Harris for an Honor Code violation, be required to re-do the summer reading, and receive only UP TO HALF CREDIT.

Common App Essay Prompts

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?