College Planning Webinar Series

Webinar #5 – Week of June 8

Reflecting Through Words:
Drafting Your College Essay

Where do I begin?

(Fantastic resources from The College Essay Guy)

- Brainstorming: Essence Objects Exercise
- The Values Exercise
  - …and more ways to brainstorm!

- How to Start your College Essay

- A few considerations:
  - Drafts can be messy and unorganized; there is time to bring it all together.
  - You should work on this over time.

Tell Your Story

This is one of the few places where you have control in the admission process.

Use this space to tell your authentic story.

Don’t write for any person or for any college; write for you.

Prompts

- **Common App**
  - 7 prompts + topic of your choice
- **Coalition App**
  - 5 prompts + topic of your choice
- **Individual Applications**
  - Might have their own question or ask for a personal statement.
- **Specifications**
  - Min. 250 words – Max. 650 words

Reflect & Journal

- **Reflect**
  - How have you spent these last few months of unusual times?
  - What have you learned?
  - Have you started new hobbies, developed new interests?
  - Have your values changed?
  - Has your outlook on your future changed?
  - A few journal entries may help you put together a great essay.

Editing & Guidance

- **Who should look at my essay?**
  - You – several rounds of editing.
  - A peer – someone who knows you well.
  - An adult – parent, teacher, mentor?
  - Counselor – we love to read your essays!
    - *Watch for info from Mrs. Nuechterlein about reviewing essays over the summer.*