

The College Application Essay / Personal Statement: 2016 – 2017

Assignment #1: due Friday, August 19.

As a member of one of the upcoming MCP senior literature classes, you will be writing at least one “College Application” essay (also known as the “Personal Statement”). I will be with you every step of the way, and I assure you that while applying to college and writing college essays can cause stress, I have a lot of experience and will do all that I can to alleviate your concerns and keep you as apprised and on top of things as possible. You will quickly discover that I know much about the Personal Statement, college applications, and a lot of other information related to the entire process. I know for what admissions officers are looking. So, let’s get started.

In addition to your Summer Reading assignment (separate handout), your college essay assignment this summer is to answer the following 6 specific and purposefully designed questions. **I do not want you to write an essay; there will be plenty of time for that.** What I do want you to do is to thoroughly, thoughtfully, and honestly answer the questions. When school starts in August, you will be receiving a detailed packet that explains the rest of the process (prompts, requirements, and deadlines). The following questions will prepare you for all of the UC and Common Application prompts.

If you or your parents have any questions, please feel free to email me at jhamm@missionprep.org (work) OR jhamm@charter.net (home).

College Application Essay Assignment #1: Personal Reflections

Due: Friday, August 19.

In a word doc, please answer the following six questions honestly and thoroughly (these are NOT one-sentence responses – and are *for your and my eyes only*).

(Interesting Note: There might appear to be one or two overlaps between my questions and those to which you responded for College Counseling. If there are, reread your responses, edit, and include.)

1. Describe the single accomplishment of which you are most proud.
2. Of all of your volunteer activities, which ones stand out to you the most? Why?
3. What do you choose to learn about when on your own (outside of required curriculum)?
4. What are a few of your dreams and aspirations?
5. Discuss any special circumstances that might have affected your educational experience.
6. Is your high school academic record an accurate measure of your ability and potential? Explain.