**Writing the College Essay & The Common Application**

**The Common Application**

Commonapp.org

You will establish an account with The Common Application once it opens sometime in August. Many, although not all, schools use the Common App in their application process. Your school Naviance program connects with The Common Application. If you have questions about this, your guidance counselor can help you.

The Common App is a place where you can ‘list’ the schools you are interested in attending. It’s a holding place where you upload your College Essay, etc. You can ‘click’ on the schools you list to find out what other paperwork each school may require. Some schools require additional essays/prompts to answer. Every school is different.

Maximum length of College Essay for the Common App: 650 words

Where to begin:

1. List 10 things about yourself.
2. Make a timeline of significant events in your life.
3. Then, look at the essay prompts. Which best connects YOU to the question being asked?

**2016-2017 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 failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.