

# WRITING # 2 - COLLEGE APP ESSAY

## THE OVERVIEW

The college "essay" answers a prompt. It does NOT repeat the info on your application, give your GPA or test scores, or list your activities and achievements. It isn't a place to brag; it's a place to be reflective. The control here is all yours, as opposed to the items you can no longer control, like tests, courses, extra-curriculars, etc.

## THE ASSIGNMENT

1. Choose a prompt – one of the common app choices or one you are actually working on.
2. Some have word limits – Be wary! (It can seem easier to write one with a short limit, but it usually ends up really challenging to be *that* good in few words.)
3. Stick to the topic but get creative. The college app paper is essentially creative non-fiction: it should be true but think story-ish.
4. MLA Format – be sure to use it. (Specifically, watch your before & after spacing). I'll post a video to show you. Check it out.
5. Work on your college app essay in your drafts folder until you are satisfied that it says what you want to say.
6. Not all systems will allow you to title an app essay (if you are submitting it online), but here it needs a real title. EVERYTHING in this course needs a title.

### Tech Steps:

1. Open your Dropbox – and go to your DRAFTS folder.
2. Choose CREATE NEW FILE & start a new WORD document.
3. Please use MLA Formatting (check the tab on the website)
4. Write your essay. Make it "good." Reread it to be sure it makes sense.
5. Make sure you shift paragraphs where ideas shift. (Hint: it does NOT need 5 paragraphs – be free.)
6. Title the doc YourlastnameCollegeApp.docx (not literally – replace that with YOUR last name)
7. Leave it in the Drafts folder. NO NEED TO SHARE.

## MORE ABOUT THE COMMON APP

The common app prompts are meant to help you discover and share reflections about yourself that can help a college admissions officer or board note if you are a good fit for their campus culture. If you look closely, you'll notice they are about your background, identity, interest, or talent; learning from a life challenge, setback, or failure; questioning your own beliefs/ideas; solving an intellectual challenge, research inquiry, or ethical dilemma; growing from your accomplishment, a moment, or a realization.