June 2026 Newsletter
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The Ideal Month to Begin the Admissions Essay

Senior year is a special time for a college bound student. Seniors receive from teachers, fellow students,
and school administrators privileges
and positive attention, honors afforded to no one else in a high school. Senior year is also busy with many "I can't believe this is happening" moments: the last "first day" of school, senior trip, military enlistments, senior night at athletic events, and so forth. College App 101 (1) is committed to helping high school seniors enjoy an outstanding year and (2) realizes effective planning makes an enjoyable senior year possible.

With that said, June is the time for the class of 2027 to take advantage of a more relaxed schedule and to plan and write the college admissions essay(s). Common App announced that its essay prompts for the forthcoming admissions cycle are the same as last year. While some colleges do not require an admissions essay, many colleges, especially those on the selective end of the spectrum, require multiple essays. For example, in the recent past, College App 101 guided a senior, who wrote twenty short and long essays for one college. That senior made three applications to her college: general admission, admission to a gated major, and admission to the college's honors program. College bound seniors would do well to use the content set forth here to plan their admissions essay.

- Step 1: students/parents should read the Common App essay prompts. If a desired college does not use Common App, then students should research the essay prompt(s) of their college(s) on their admissions website(s).
- Step 2: students/parents should consider story. What story does the student want to tell in her admissions application? Perhaps the story is athletic, perhaps academic, perhaps artistic, perhaps something else. Brainstorming with a parent, other close family member, insightful teacher, or friend is a fruitful first step
toward determining story. Ideally, the admissions essay aligns with the larger story of the application.
- Step 3: read outstanding admissions essays from Hamilton College and Johns Hopkins University. Both schools are highly selective, and the examples they provide are helpful guides. Step 3 is also a good context to decry AI. Hamilton and Hopkins put forth essays written by humans, not chatbots.
- Step 4: reach out to College App 101 to inquire about the Essay Revision service and begin writing.

The admissions essay is a very, very important piece of a college application and goes a long way in helping a college

admissions committee know the applicant as a person, not just a student.
College App 101 provides free essay guidance in several podcasts: Finding Your Voice in Admissions Essays Part 1 and Part 2, The Admissions Essay: Telling Your Story Well, Writing a Compelling Essay Part 1 Revisited, Writing a Compelling Essay Part 2 and Part 3.

Career Planning Session
College App 101 is excited to announce a new career aptitude service: Career Planning Session. This service is for students, who do not know what college major to declare or career path to pursue. The Career Planning Session is a meeting to discuss a high school student's prospective career choices and the education that such career prospects require. A pre-meeting assessment is required. Connect with Dr. Riley at collegeapp101.com and request more information today.

College App 101 Podcasts
Designed for college bound high school students and their parents, these podcasts are brief, informational, and entertaining. They are available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and collegeapp101.com/podcasts/. Recent episodes:

- Interviews with Class of 2026 National Merit Students Part 4 (National Merit Finalist!)
- Interviews with Class of 2026 National Merit Students Part 3
- Interviews with Class of 2026 National Merit Students Part 2
- Interviews with Class of 2026 National Merit Students Part 1
- Developing a Love for Learning Part 3
- Interview with a College Student about Major

Dates to Remember:
- June 5: regular registration deadline for the July 11 ACT
- June 6: SAT test day
- June 13: ACT test day
- June 24: late registration deadline for the July 11 ACT (fee increase)
- July 11: ACT test day

Click here for SAT registration and here for ACT registration

Past College App 101 Newsletters
Past editions of the College App 101 Newsletter can be found here.