

English IV Summer Assignment

Rick Flieger (rflieg@neisd.net ; mobile phone 887-3546)

This assignment applies to all levels of English IV (AP, Dual Credit, G/T). Your job is to write one of the college admission essays that you will face during your senior year. At this time, your essay does not have to be perfect, but it should evidence a serious effort to answer the question **thoughtfully, energetically, and creatively**.

- 1) **Contact at least two colleges or universities that you are interested in attending.** Your goal is to obtain information about the application process (deadlines, requirements) and, of course, the **questions** that you will need to answer in your essay(s). You may be able to find all of the information you need on the institution's website—many post their applications online—or you may have to call or e-mail someone in the **admissions office**. Be sure to LABEL the questions so that you, and I, will know to which school they correspond.
- 2) **Compose a draft of one of the essays.** The idea here is for you to get started early on a stressful process, so choose an essay question that is challenging for you and with which you need help. Writing an easy answer to an easy question will defeat the purpose of this assignment. Remember that your essay does not need to be in final form at this stage.
- 3) **Bring your draft on the first day of English class.** The essay should be **typed, in 12-point size, in an easy-to-read font. In addition to a paper copy, you must also bring your essay on a disk in .txt or Microsoft Word format, OR e-mail it to me at the address above.** We will be working on your essay during class, so be ready.

Thanks, and enjoy your summer (the part before you have to start working on this). This may not be the most entertaining summer assignment you've received, but starting early is a good way to avoid some of the stress of the college application process. I truly look forward to the chance to work with you, and to meeting those of you whom I don't already know. See you in August!

Frequently Asked Questions:

My school doesn't require an essay. What should I do for this assignment?

First, be sure that the school doesn't require an essay. If an essay is "optional," write it. Writing an optional essay shows initiative and is a good way to impress an admissions officer.

If you're certain that there is no essay required for ANY of the schools to which you'll be applying, complete the **alternative assignment** below.

I'm not planning to attend college next year. What should I do?

If your plans involve enlisting in the military, traveling, working, or anything else, complete the **alternative assignment** below.

Alternative Assignment for students with no college entrance essay requirement: compose an essay of approximately 1 ½ - 2 double-spaced, typed pages in which you give your response to an imaginary interviewer who has just asked you the following questions: "Why are you interested in this [school, branch of military, job, etc.]. Why should we invite you to join it?"