

English IV AP Summer Assignment

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This assignment applies to all levels of English IV (AP, Dual Credit, G/T). Your task is to write one of the admission essays that you will need during your college application process. Your essay does not have to be perfect (yet), 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 **question(s)** 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 application materials 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 essay.** The point of this assignment is for you to get started early on a stressful process, so choose an essay question that is challenging for you. Writing an easy answer to an easy question will defeat the purpose of this assignment.
- 3) **Bring your draft on the first day of English class.** The essay should be **typed, in 12-point size, double-spaced** in an **easy-to-read plain font**. We will be working on your essay during class during the first few days of school, so be ready. Write a complete essay, but remember that your essay does not need to be final-draft perfect at this stage.

Thank you, 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 the best way to avoid some of the stress of the college application process. I 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?

The first thing to do is check a different school; you should eventually apply to at least three. Next, 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 or who are not applying to college: 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?"