



THE MASTER'S SCHOOL

Senior Thesis *Mrs. Sperry and Mr. Fenn*

Supplies needed for the fall

- Pens: blue, black, red, and other colors of interest
- Highlighters: various colors
- Sticky notes (any kind)
- A notebook—spiral or composition-style—that contains your summer assignments and that will last the whole year or up until mid-terms

Text needed

On Writing the College Application Essay: The Key to Acceptance at the College of Your Choice, Harry Bauld

Purchase, read, and annotate the first **five** chapters of this book for the start of school. Follow the instructions in chapter five for keeping a notebook. Bring your notebook and the text to school the first week.

College Application Essay

You will need to complete your college essay—we will work on these the first few weeks of school, so you do not need to have a polished draft before school starts, but you may want to start thinking about the topics. The following is a list of the prompts used by the Common App. This is a personal, narrative-style essay, so you will use first person and you will use specific examples from your life. Think hard about what sets you apart as an individual.

If you feel you need to complete the essay during the summer, please read through all of the text, *On Writing the College Application Essay*, follow the instructions outlined in the book, and read through the examples of essays that worked, found on the following websites:

<https://apply.jhu.edu/application-process/essays-that-worked/>

<https://admissions.tufts.edu/apply/advice/past-essays/common-application-essays/>.

2019-2020 Common Application 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 obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
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, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

<http://www.commonapp.org/>