

The College Writer- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Summer Assignment  
Text to be read during the summer :  
When I Was Your Age: Original Stories About Growing Up  
edited by Amy Ehrlich

When you return for the 2019 – 2020 academic year, one of the first tasks you will be working on is your college essay. Below are 10 prompts and questions to help you start thinking about what you want colleges to know about you.

Choose 3 of the topics below and write an 8 – 10 sentence paragraph for each one. Your paragraphs should be typed using 12pt Times New Roman or Arial and should be double-spaced.

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. Let's go back to a time when learning was pure joy. Please tell us your favorite childhood book and why.
5. What's your favorite word and why?
6. What is something about which you have changed your mind in the last three years?
7. Think back to a situation in your life where you had to decide between taking a risk and playing it safe. Which choice did you make? What was the outcome of your choice? Would you have made the same decision looking back on the experience or would you have made a different decision?
8. Describe some tasks that you have accomplished over the past two years that have no connection to academic studies.
9. If you had the chance to have a 30-minute conversation with any person in human history (either living or deceased), who would be the person you choose? Why? What topics would you discuss with this person?
10. What do you consider to be the best advice you ever received? Who gave you that advice and did you follow that advice or not?