

College Prep English – College Essay Unit

This unit is designed to help you analyze and prepare for the college application process. YOU MUST TURN IN EACH OF THE ASSIGNMENTS together in a packet. Each will be awarded points separately. To be successful in this unit, you need to follow directions exactly. If you have questions, please ask.

Appearance does count: All work must be typewritten, proofread, and spellchecked. Accuracy of mechanics, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage will count toward grades. You may present this information in paragraph or bullet form. Your choice.

Assignment #1

Identify **THREE** colleges/universities you are considering **and** your intended major. Complete **ALL** of the following information for each college you list. Each bullet below is **REQUIRED for each college**:

- State the selected college and the major you will pursue.
- Explain why you are interested in the college you have selected as a potential college/university, going beyond superficial reasons. Be specific. What attracts you to this college?
- Explain why you have chosen your intended major. What interests you about this major and why? Be specific. [You can cut and paste this for each college; however, be sure that your major would be the same at each college. You might have to change the major name based on what the college offers.]
- Provide evidence (photocopies) that each college choice does indeed have the major you are interested in.
- Provide evidence (photocopies) of the **high school prerequisites for admission** to this major at each college. In other words, what high school courses must you have taken to be accepted into the college choice with this major? Using either a chart or a check list, **prove that you meet admission requirements.**
- Finally, identify which of the three colleges is your number one college choice based upon your analysis of the three colleges. Write a brief statement identifying your #1 choice and explaining why you have selected it as #1.

Assignment #2

Provide a statement that analyzes the career outlook for your intended major. Consider and include the following **REQUIRED** information. Be sure to answer **all parts of each bullet**. Use MLA citation formats.

- a. What is the short term and the long term job outlook for this career field. Is this a career field that is currently in demand? What is the long-range forecast for this career? Is it a growing or a declining field? What degrees are required to be eligible to enter the field? Support your statements with statistics from career databases. Here are a few: Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov), Occupational Outlook Handbook (contained in BLS website), Choices program in EHS counseling office. Computer databases, including www.careers-internet.org. Also the library database is a source, as well as books on career fields. Check with Ms. Harper for URL and passwords. Use the databases and other resources to answer the following bullets also.
- b. Is this field changing in any ways? What additional skills will be necessary in the future?
- c. What are closely related fields that your intended major will qualify you for?
- d. What are the estimated starting salaries for a recent college graduate?
- e. What is the minimum degree level required for this career field? Is an advanced degree (master's or doctoral degree) required before you can begin work? If yes, what are the prerequisites for admission to post graduate schools? What exams must you pass before you can start a career? What licenses must you have to be employable in this field?
- f. **Prepare a works cited** in MLA format that cites all the sources you used. **You need to use a minimum of 4 sources.** Use the Englewood Style Guide as your tool for preparing MLA citations. The works cited will receive a separate grade.

Assignment #3

College Admission Essay OR College Scholarship Essay. **MAIN PART OF PROJECT.**

- See separate handout for specific requirements.
- You need to complete ONE of the following. Make it real, something you will use.
 - i. A college admission's essay. Most PRIVATE colleges will require this. [Note: More public colleges have begun to require an admissions essay, particularly if you have special circumstances you need to explain, such as really bad freshmen or sophomore grades, multiple suspensions in high school, discrepancies between class grades and test scores—ACT, SAT, maybe even CSAP scores—OR finally, having borderline admission criteria. The essay may significantly improve your chances for admission in these circumstances.
 - ii. A scholarship essay. Using scholarships you find in the Post Grad center or online or in the notebook in my room or any other source, select a scholarship you can apply for. Follow the directions for the scholarship exactly. Failure to follow a scholarship's directions may disqualify you from the competition. Include the scholarship form with your essay when you turn it in.

Assignment #4

Write a statement [one paragraph to one page] that analyzes the process you went through in obtaining the above information for Assignments 1-3. What worked for you? What didn't work for you? As a result of the research you have done, have you changed your thinking about what you intend to do? If yes, explain in what way(s). Did you find out anything that surprised you? Explain what surprised you. If you were not surprised or did not change your thinking, analyze how your research reinforced your commitment to your plans.

Additional Project requirements:

1. Include a **title page** for the front of your project.
2. All work must be neatly typewritten or word-processed. Missing information will cause point deductions. Grammar and mechanic errors will significantly lower grade.
3. **Turn in two complete copies of this assignment.** One will go in a folder to be saved for your senior portfolio due in the spring. You'll have one section done. If you don't turn it in now, you will be responsible for providing this college packet in the spring.
4. Feel free to include in your college unit packet any brochures, photocopies of information, or other materials that you obtain that have helped you in your college selection process.

Extra Credit: You may do either one or both.

#1 – You can earn extra credit by contacting a person currently working in this field and interviewing and/or shadowing this person. If you plan to do this, submit to me a list of ten questions you will ask. Then following your interview, prepare a transcript of the interview that includes both the questions you asked and the interviewee's responses. You must also include the name of the person, person's company, person's job title/position, person's work address, and contact phone number and/or email address. Then write a paragraph in which you analyze the significance of the interview in regards to your college and career choices.

#2 – Analyze your intended major's course of study.

- Attach a photocopy of the college's course of study for your intended major from a recent catalog or downloaded from the university's website.
- On your own paper, make a list of all the general education requirements you must fulfill. [All college/universities have general education requirements beyond the major, such as English, math, science, humanities, art, physical education, social sciences, etc. List the requirements for your university.] Optional: Can you test out of any of them or can they be waived?
- Then make a list of all the specific major requirements you must complete.
- Look at the elective choices within your major requirements. Which of the elective choices would you choose? Why?

- Does this course of study still interest you or have you changed your mind after analyzing what you need to do?