

# COLLEGE ENTRANCE ESSAYS: TABLE OF CONTENTS

\*For sample essays, see text in **Yellow**

## 2020-2021 Common App Essay Questions ([link here](#))

Includes all 7 of the prompts available on the 2020-2021 Common App, as well as information on an additional, optional question on how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the student's personal and academic life. Includes links to the Common App website's coronavirus support and resource page.

## HBCU Common App Info ([link here](#))

Includes information on the Common Black College Application platform, which allows students to apply to all 58 participating Historically Black Colleges and Universities for a single \$20 fee.

## The GREAT College Essay Project - Tips and Sample Essays ([link](#)) by 826 National, Reach Higher

This is a student-oriented pamphlet which introduces students to the essay prompts they will encounter on their Common App. The pamphlet walks students through a series of tips on writing a strong essay and on pitfalls to avoid while writing. Includes a helpful "Student Writing Checklist" that students can return to throughout their drafting and revision process.

Includes:

- 2019-2020 College Application Prompts
- Writing Tips for Students
- Best Practices for Popular Essay Topics
- College Essay No-no's (And Other Helpful Tips)
- Student Writing Checklist
- 3 Sample Essays:
  - Sample Essay #1 (jigida)
  - Sample Essay #2
  - Sample Essay #3 (first and final draft)

## **The Great College Essay Project: Write Your Way In (Lesson Plan) ([link](#)) by Kyle Pulphus, 826 New Orleans**

This is a lesson plan designed for instructor use. In this lesson, the instructor guides college-bound students through a one-session (2.5 hr) workshop on compelling college essays, leading them through the brainstorming process and ideally leaving them with a rough draft they feel excited about. The instructor will lead students through a self-interview and will provide time for independent writing.

[Note: This lesson plan works in tandem with the “The Great College Essay Project: Write Your Way In” student handout and slideshow.](#)

- Lesson plan, 1 session: 2 hours, 30 minutes
- A writing workshop which teaches college-bound juniors and seniors to “write compelling personal statements for consideration for college admissions... Common App prompts are provided in the student packet.”

## **The GREAT College Essay Project: Write Your Way In (Slideshow) ([link](#)) by 826 Digital, Reach Higher**

Slideshow designed for instructor use. To be used in tandem with the “The Great College Essay Project: Write Your Way In” student handout and lesson plan.

[The Great College Essay Project: Write Your Way In--Student Packet \(Worksheets\):](#)

[This is a handout designed for student use. To be used in tandem with the “The Great College Essay Project: Write Your Way In” lesson plan and powerpoint.](#)

Includes:

- Common App Overview and Prompts
- Other College Application Questions
- Student Interview Worksheet
- Writing Checklist
- Sample Student Essay by Kelly, University-Hopeful

## **Eastern Michigan University Writing Center College Essay Workshop Materials ([link](#))**

Application Essay Advice by University Writing Center([www.emich.edu/uwc](http://www.emich.edu/uwc))

Includes:

- Application Essay Advice
- Application Essay Prewriting

## Writing Application Essays Powerpoint ([link](#))

by Eastern Michigan University Writing Center([www.emich.edu/uwc](http://www.emich.edu/uwc))

Includes:

- Pre-writing strategies
- Tips for Drafting
- Tips for Revising and Proofreading
- Checklist
- Watch out for...
- Practice Prompts
- Reflection

## Writing Application Essays Powerpoint ([link](#))

by Johns Hopkins University

- “And on that Note” sample essay  
This one-page essay is written from the point of view of a student with many intersecting identities and interests. The writer exemplifies how someone can write about the many activities they’re involved with, while still being personable and meeting a one-page limit. Students can take note of this author’s paragraph breaks and transitions to better understand how they can effectively include a variety of topics in their essay.
- “Looking Through a Wider Lens” sample essay  
This one-page essay will be helpful to anyone applying to a medical program. The author recaps their journey of learning how to give the best care to those in need. Framing their story as a journey and a process of growth is something this author does really well. Student’s can take note of how this author tells a story across a timeline and ends on an inspiring note on the future.

