

August 25th 2020

Dear Running Start Students Class of 2021,

This is one of many **Applying to a 4-Year College/University** newsletters! Through out this summer check your BC inbox for emails helping you prepare for applying to colleges and universities in the Fall of 2020, your senior year. Each newsletter will cover different topics and will always include **links to resources** for you to explore and use on your own.

**If you are not planning on attending a 4-year school after high school then please ignore these emails and feel free to reach out to an advisor with questions about your path after high school.*

Writing Your College Essay(s)

Your essays are a very important part of your application. They are the chance you have to share your writing ability, your creativity, and show the admissions who you are in a way that the rest of your application isn't able to.

Most college applications, for 4-year colleges and universities, will require you to submit an essay. This essay might be a typical 5 paragraph essay structure or it may be shorter responses to a few different questions.

Examples of different "Essays":

- The **Common Application** you will have a choice from [8 different prompts](#).
- The **Coalition application** (UW uses this application platform) you must respond to [at least one essay prompt](#) and aim for 500-550 word count.
 - If you are applying to UW, they have UW specific questions as a part of the application. These questions are available *September 1st*. These specific questions include: two essays, demographic information, and what you hope to major in. [How to apply \(UW Seattle\)](#).
- The **University of California** system, instead of essays they have Personal Insight Questions, there are [8 different prompts](#) and you must choose 4 to respond to and write short responses of no more than 350 words.

Essay writing process:

1. Read through the prompt options
2. Brainstorm some essay ideas for 2-3 different prompts
3. Draft an essay for whichever prompt you are feeling most confident about
4. Ask a teacher, parent, mentor, coach, employer, or peer to review your writing for feedback on grammar and content
5. Review your draft with fresh eyes – review your essay drafts multiple times
6. Ask again for someone you trust to review your essay
7. Review again with fresh eyes – fix all grammar and spelling errors.
8. Submit!

Resources

[Common App Essay Prompts](#)

[Coalition for College Essay Prompts](#)

[How to Apply \(UW Seattle\)](#)

[The Only Four College Essay Writing Tips You'll Ever Need \(Admissions.Tufts.edu/blogs\)](#)

[Writing Tips and Techniques for your College Essay \(KhanAcademy.org\)](#)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, language, sex, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Please see policy 4150 at www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Title IX Coordinator, 425-564-2641, Office C227, and EEOC/504 Compliance Officer, 425-564-2266, Office R130.

Last updated by Erica Walker August 2020

[8 Tips for Crafting Your Best College Essay \(CollegeBoard.org\)](#)

[How to Write a College Essay Step-by-step: The Ultimate Guide \(CollegeEssayGuy.com\)](#)

[Common App: First Time Application Guide](#)

[Preparing for College](#) (University of Washington)

[Washington College Access Network: Applying to College](#)

If you have any questions about these topics please respond to this email or [Click here to submit a question, provide feedback, or suggest another topic to be covered!](#)

Next newsletter topic:

All Applying to 4-Year Schools Newsletters and Worksheets are now available as downloadable PDFs on our website:

<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/runningstart/navigation/advising-educational-planning/>