

Essay Writing Tips:

*When deciding on a prompt, go with the one that grabs you. Follow your instinct, and WRITE!

*Be sure to always answer the prompt. Don't veer, don't redirect; stay on task and do what the prompt is asking you to do! *This is writing unlike most of what you have done through school; give yourself time, grace and kindness through the re-writes.* You have a strong essay in you!

*Having selected your prompt, stay flexible! Sometimes your writing ends up fitting an alternate prompt and that is OKAY! Just make sure that your essay matches the prompt you have selected.

*Write, rewrite, read it out loud, share it with me, write some more...these essays take TIME!! No first draft is the completed draft. (Did I say [share your essays with me](#)? Please? I am here to review and help!)

*Read your essay out loud before you click submit. Make sure it sounds 'right', answers the prompt and *details something about you that isn't apparent in the other parts of your application.* (Reading out loud is also a great way to catch errors!)

*If your essay is about your intended major or school choice, make it a match! Explain how you match the major, are a fit for school X, etc...use this essay as an opportunity to support your application!

*Think twice before writing about COVID-19. Check out [this detailed advice](#) on the topic.

The 2020-2021 Common Application Essay Prompts are:

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.

Check out The College Essay Guy's free resources [here](#) or visiting collegeessayguy.com

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