



Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School

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CYNTHIA E. EDWARDS
Principal

Every 11th grade student must complete one college essay from the following list and bring it on September 8, 2009, the first day of their senior year. Essays must be handed in to Ms. Uva in the college office on the first day of school. A college essay should be 2 pages, double spaced.

Common Essay Topics

Common Application Essays:

Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.

Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.

Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.

Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.

A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.

Topic of your choice.

Introducing Yourself Essays:

"Please complete a one-page personal statement and submit it with your application." (James Madison University)

- "How would you describe yourself as a human being? What quality do you like best in yourself and what do you like least? What quality would you most like to see flourish and which would you like to see wither?"
(Bates College)

- "Describe any interesting experience you have had during your college admission search." (Juniata College)

- "Creative people state that taking risks often promotes important discoveries in their lives or their work. Discuss a risk that has led to a significant change (positive or negative) in your personal life or intellectual life." (Simmons College)
- "Describe the most challenging obstacle you have had to overcome; discuss its impact, and tell what you have learned from the experience." (Guilford College)
- "To learn to think is to learn to question. Discuss a matter you once thought you knew 'for sure' that you have since learned to question." (Bryn Mawr College)

The "Why Us" Question

Some schools ask for an essay about your choice of a school or career. They're looking for information about your goals, and about how serious your commitment is to this particular school. For example:

- "Why is UVM a good college choice for you?" (University of Vermont)
- "Please tell us about your career goals and any plans you may have for graduate study." (Westfield State College)
- "Tell us about yourself, your reasons for applying to USF, and your reasons for seeking a college education." (University of San Francisco)
- "Describe your reasons for selecting Loyola College and your personal and professional goals and plans after college." (Loyola College MD)
- "We would like to know... what experiences have led you to select your professional field and objective." (Boston University)
- "Please relate your interest in studying at Georgetown University to your future goals." (Georgetown University)