

# Personal Essay Prompts

Students will be required to write a personal essay using one of the following common college application essay prompts. Please use google docs to create the essay, avoid AI at all costs, and follow the “Do’s and Don’t’s” at the bottom.

- **Proudest Activity:** Think of all the activities, both in and outside of school, that you have been involved with during high school/8th grade. Which one are you most proud of and why?
- **Personal Story:** Tell us your story. What unique opportunities or challenges have you experienced throughout your high school career that have shaped who you are today?
- **Life Event:** Describe a life event which you feel has prepared you to be successful in college.
- **Impactful Person:** Tell us about the person who has most impacted your life and why.
- **Why Major (for juniors):** Why are you interested in the major you indicated as your first-choice major?

The "5 Ds" of college essays are common, high-risk topics that admissions officers frequently advise students to **avoid** or approach with extreme caution: Death, Divorce, Disease (including mental health/depression), Drugs, and Drama/Dating. These subjects can lead to cliché narratives or uncomfortable, over-shared personal details. If you do write about one of these topics, be very careful. Often students spend more time writing about the death, the divorce, or the person they lost, rather than their own resilience, growth, and future goals. Instead: Focus on transformation- if you write about a difficult topic, ensure the story focuses less on the event and more on your personal growth and lessons learned. Show, don't tell- instead of telling a sad story, show your resilience through specific actions, thoughts, and feelings. Be authentic -focus on a unique, personal experience that highlights your character rather than a cliché scenario.