

## The College Application Essay / Personal Statement: 2018 – 2019

### College Essay Assignment #1: due Friday, August 17.

As a senior at MCP, you will be writing at least one “College Application” essay (also known as the “Personal Statement”). While applying to college and writing college essays can be stressful, I have much experience and will do all that I can to alleviate your concerns. I know for what admissions officers are looking; so, let’s get started.

Your first college essay assignment is to answer the following 6 questions. These questions have been designed with the UC and Common App prompts in mind. **You are NOT writing an essay at this point; there will be plenty of time for that.** Your assignment is to thoroughly, thoughtfully, and honestly answer the following questions.

As you are responding to the questions, if you or your parents have any questions, please email me at [jhamm@missionprep.org](mailto:jhamm@missionprep.org) (work) OR [johamm@charter.net](mailto:johamm@charter.net) (home).

## College Application Essay Assignment #1: Personal Reflection

**Due: Friday, August 17**

In a word doc, please answer the following six questions honestly and thoroughly (these are NOT one-sentence responses).

- *Two important points:*
  - *Whatever you write is for your and my eyes only.*
  - *Please compose your responses in a format that both you and I can edit later edit, which usually means a Word doc (not a Pages doc).*
- 1. Describe what it is about you that you are most proud. This could be a talent or skill, a way that you approach life, or an achievement. Please elaborate.
- 2. Creativity can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, innovative thinking, musically, artistically, and more. How do you express your creative side?
- 3. What do you choose to learn about on your own (outside of your required curriculum)? What captivates you about this topic?
- 4. What academic subject most inspires you? How have you pursued (or how will you pursue) this interest inside and outside of the classroom?
- 5. What have you done (or what do you want to do) to make your school or community a better place?
- 6. Describe a time when you were a leader. This does not have to involve leading a group or a project (although it could be). It could be a time where you positively influenced others, helped resolve a dispute, or contributed to group efforts.