

**Summer Reading Assignment:
AP Literature and Composition
2023-2024**

Below you will find a listing of various prompts. The limitation to one work is something you will experience in college. You are to select one of these and have a completed paper emailed to lpatterson@eustace.org by **August 15. Send either in a Word document or a Google doc; DO NOT SEND AS A PDF.** I will return these during the first week of classes and the paper will count as the initial grade for the course. In the development of the paper, you must incorporate direct quotes and you may use researched information to assist you in interpreting the ideas (do not get lost in this research. I am looking for **YOUR** ideas.) The length of the paper is 4-5 pages. **Use proper MLA format.**

Option #1: *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

Prompt One: Contrast the differences between Turner and Elwood as representatives of two different points of view. Defend one or the other as the best way for an individual to survive in tough circumstances. Include in the response how the epilogue illuminates Turner and his identity decisions.

Prompt Two: Whitehead weaves the words and ideas of Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout the story. Use references to King's words and/or ideas and explain how they enhance and/or expand the story of Elwood's journey, discussing how King's words and ideas support a theme or themes in the novel.

Prompt Three: Consider all of the material that Elwood reads and how his formal and informal education affect his choices. Address the complex role of education in *The Nickel Boys*.

Option #2: *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama

Prompt On (Motif): Characters in the novel are dealing with a secret(s) that they hide from those who know them. The secret once revealed changes the perception a character has about another. Select a secret from the novel and explain what the character is hiding and how the revelation of the secret changes how the reader views the character.

Prompt Two (theme): It is very difficult when a person is alienated from a group. Select a character who is alienated from the community and discuss how the character reacts to the alienation.

College Essay Writing

Follow the directions and have the completed essay with you the first full day of class.

Instructions. The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. **What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores?** Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. **Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal.** Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so.

2023-2024 Common Application Essay Prompts

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. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
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.