



Hampton Christian Academy Upper School

April 26, 2017

Dear Parents of Early College Scholars,

As we enter this summer, all of us—parents, students, and teachers—are excited about the well-earned break from the rigors of school. At the same time, however, we recognize that an intensive academic effort by seniors is a necessity as they prepare for the rapidly approaching college years. In the Early College English 101 & 102 programs, students will be working to develop advanced writing and research skills in a way that correlates with their respective course objectives. Students in Early College English 101 & 102 are ***required to complete two projects*** during the summer break. Assignment components will be due the first week of school and grades earned on them will be averaged into each student's first semester English grade. The assignments are challenging, and students should pace their work throughout the summer to avert end-of-summer stress.

The success of any program is the direct result of parental support and involvement. We encourage you to look over the requirements and help your student get started on his/her summer assignments and writing early. We realize this program requires extra effort from both you and your student. It is just such effort that will reap academic benefits in the life of your student. We look forward to the continued partnering with you in this effort to help your student reach his/her God-given potential.

Sincerely,

Meredith C. Cowley

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Director of Guidance

Early College: Overview of Summer Assignments

1. Take the Spring SAT. Your admittance into the Early College Program is based on your SAT scores. Go to <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat> to register for the SAT.

2. College Essay: Write an essay for the Common Application. (Details given below.) Begin the application process on the Common Application. Use the following e-mail address to send the link to your guidance counselor: mcowley@hamptonchristianacademy.org.

College Essay: Summer Writing Assignment Details

The Common Application is a college admissions application used by numerous colleges and universities. It offers students and their families a tremendous savings in time by allowing them to submit the same application and essay to multiple institutions. This assignment will get you started on the application process. You may also wish to access the website www.commonapp.org to register yourself and initiate your actual application. (You may also wish to check the websites of the colleges of interest to you and determine if they accept the Common Application. Many do, but others have their own or additional application requirements.) The following prompts are the ones posted for the Common Application. Read through the prompts, select one that interests you, and write AT LEAST a 250-word essay in response to it. If you wrote a college essay as part of last year's work, do not choose a prompt that results in substantially the same essay as you previously completed. The goal is to build a repertoire of potential essays that you can utilize as you apply to colleges and seek scholarships.

1. *Prompts/Topics:*

- 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.
- The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- 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.
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

2. **Guidelines:**

- ★ Carefully read your chosen prompt and your essay requirements.
- ★ Choose 1-2 aspects (no more than 3) to focus on for your essay. (Choose an experience/experiences that allow you to express your individuality.
- ★ Consider the main idea for your essay: What do you want the reader to know and feel about you after reading your essay?
- ★ Use a voice that is natural sounding and reveals your personality. In other words, don't try to sound like someone else.
- ★ Make sure your essay is clear, organized, and concise. Every sentence should be effective and directly support the essay's main idea.
- ★ Gain the reader's attention in the first sentence, weave your character traits throughout the body of your essay, and explain what story/response reveals about you in your concluding lines. (Remember, your response should emphasize the qualities that you wish to highlight for the College Admissions Committee.)
- ★ Include ALL details (dialogue, description of setting, etc.) in your initial draft. (These can be trimmed later, if needed, so that all remaining details highlight the qualities you wish to reveal.) Avoid clichéd, generic, and predictable writing by using vivid and specific details that appeal to the senses (as appropriate) and through the use of natural-sounding and direct language.

3. **Grading Criteria:**

- ★ Follow guidelines in this document.
- ★ Type the essay prompt to which you are responding. Position this one double space below the last line of the MLA heading.
- ★ Your essay must show strong evidence that you have proofread it. You want to demonstrate your college-readiness.

4. ***For Early College English 101:***

- ★ Purchase the textbook for ENGL 101 - *They Say, I Say* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. You can sign up for Amazon Smile to support Hampton Christian.
- ★ In order to remain enrolled in early college courses, please submit payment of \$99 per EC course by Friday of the first week of school.