



Hampton Christian Academy Upper School

Dear Parents of Early College Scholars,

As we approach summer, all of us 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 & 113 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 are **required to complete three summer assignments** before the first week of school.

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 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 English 101: Summer Assignments

1. Purchase the textbooks for ENGLISH 101:

***The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel**

Buy the book, borrow it from a friend, or download it to a tablet.

*You can purchase it from Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Case-Christ-Journalists-Personal-Investigation/dp/0310345863?ref=ast_slp_dp

***They Say, I Say (3rd edition) by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein.**

Buy the book, borrow it from a friend, or download it to a tablet.

*You can purchase it from Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/They-Say-Matter-Academic-Writing/dp/0393617432/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=they+say+i+say+3rd+edition&qid=1557932661&s=gateway&sr=8-1

2. Create your personal résumé:

Create a personal résumé highlighting your accomplishments. Include areas of academics, leadership, athletics, clubs, and community service. Include academic awards, athletic accomplishments, and positions of leadership (captain of sports teams, student government, honor society officer, etc.). Community service may include church volunteerism and mission trips. You may also describe paid positions to demonstrate consistency and work ethic. The résumé is due the first day of school.

3. Write your college admissions essay:

Write an essay based on the Common Application prompts, and turn it in on the first day of school. Choose from one of the essay prompts on the attached instructions.

College Admissions Essay: Instructions

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 (<https://www.commonapp.org/how-apply>) 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.

Essay Prompts

1. **Prompts/Topics - Choose ONE of the following essay prompts:**

- * *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 obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?*
- * *Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?*
- * *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, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.*
- * *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging 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?*
- * *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.*

2. **Guidelines for writing:**

- ★ Carefully read your chosen prompt and your essay requirements. Type the essay prompt to which you are responding. Position this one double space below the last line of the MLA heading.
- ★ 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. 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 the 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.
- ★ Your essay must show strong evidence that you have proofread it.