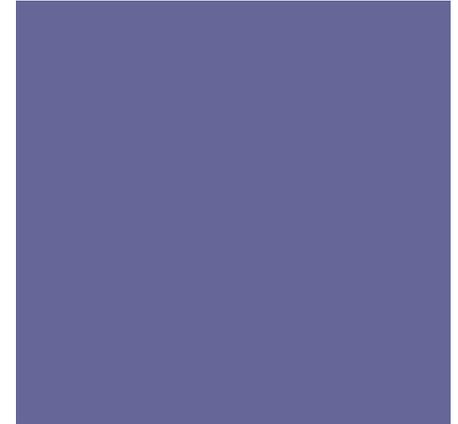
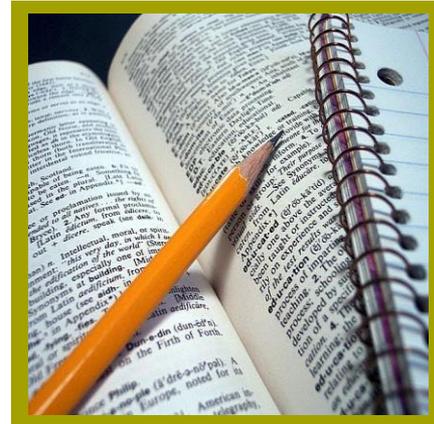




# Writing the College Essay

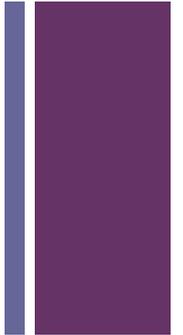


Woodbridge High School  
English Department and  
Counseling Department

MR. DAVIS and MS. TAYLOR

# + College Essay First Thoughts

- They matter – a LOT!!!
- Your chance to give admissions office a sense of person behind the numbers
  - About expressing your personality and voice
- Must stand out amongst thousands
  - Luckily for you, most range from terrible to boring

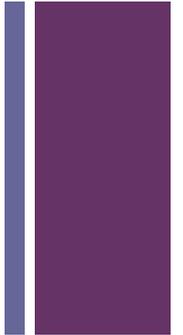


# + College Essay/Personal Statement Prompts

- Choose 1 of the 5 prompts below and write an essay of no less than 250 and no more than 650 words which addresses that topic.
- Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
- 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 place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

# + Modes of Writing

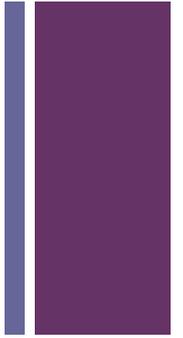
- Note language of the prompts
  - “Recount”
  - “Reflect”
  - “Describe”
- Asking for **Narrative** response
- Supported by vivid **Description**
- **Thesis Driven** Narrative
- Show not Tell



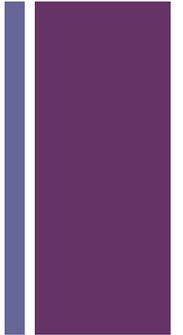
# + Goal Setting/ Thesis Creation



- Prove **one** thing about yourself
  - Do not reproduce brag sheet!!!
  - Express motivation behind accolades
- Be willing to take risks
- Present a case for your admission
- Sample of your writing ability



# + Match Topics to Qualities



<b>3 Essay Topics</b>	<b>Personal Qualities You Can Highlight</b>
<b>Story Central to Identity</b>	Concern for Others
<b>Why College X</b>	Intellectual Curiosity
<b>Person who has Influenced You</b>	Leadership

# + Other Brainstorming Strategies

- Gather Your Stories
- Timeline
- Goal Setting
- Research Schools
- List of Important People
- English Department College Essay Packet has a ton of Great Graphic Organizers



# + Writing Strategy



- Must have strong hook
- Focus on anecdote
  - Narrate, do not explain or analyze
- Consider Audience
- Personal Voice
  - Not slang or informal but should express your personality
  - Find a tone that works for you
  - Have people who know you proofread for authenticity

