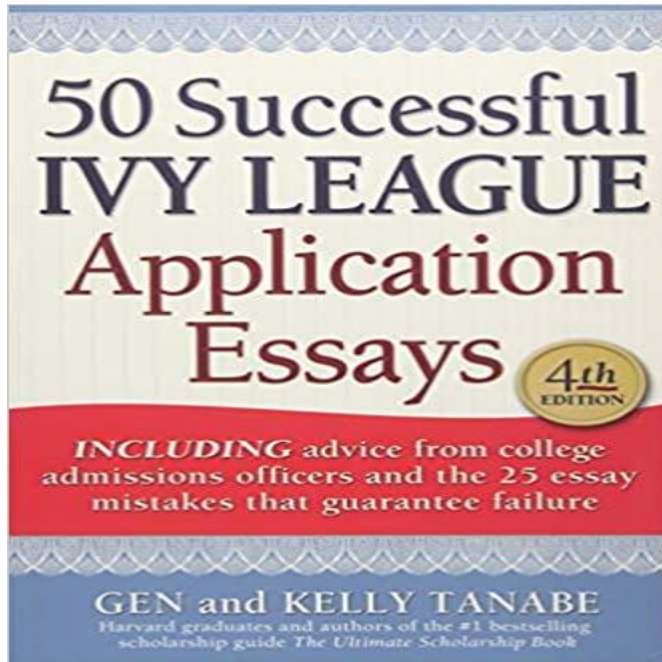


Merit Rising Senior English Summer Assignment (2021)

The purpose of the summer assignment is for you to get ahead in your college application process. As you may have been told, the senior year of high school will be the busiest year of your life thus far. By working on the application essay this summer, you position yourself well ahead of the curve as you enter your senior year. Even if you are not planning to attend college in 2020, this assignment gives you an opportunity to have a “back-up” essay in case you change your mind.

Part 1 – Read *50 Successful Ivy League Application Essays* (4th edition) by Gen and Kelley Tanabe.



Part 2 – Choose three essays which you deem interesting or relevant. Write a one page paper explaining as to why you chose each of the three that you chose. Use at least one quote from each essay to support your argument. **This is due the first day of school and is worth a quiz grade.** See below for the rubric. Late work is 10 points off per day.

Part 3 -- Write a 2 page college entrance essay based upon one of the prompts (from the common app) listed below. **The rough draft is due the first day of school for a quiz grade.** The final draft will be due at a tbd date and is worth a test grade. Late work is 10 points off per day. See below for rubrics.

Your essay must be based upon one of the following Common App 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. 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.
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. Describe an event or several events that shaped your thinking and compelled you to apply to a Christian university.

Rubric for essay(quiz grade) **due first day of school**

FOCUS 10	All of writing stays on topic. Reaches 1 pages in length
EVIDENCE 30	Use of varying types of evidence , 1 quotes from each of the 3 selected essays. Moves from general to specific with the inclusion of any of the following pieces of evidence to support the focus: textual reference, example, fact, extended definition, concrete detail, quotation, and experience.
ORGANIZATION 20	Demonstrate logical grouping of ideas. Sequence ideas in progression. Use transitions to clarify relationships . Provide effective introduction and conclusion as needed.
LANGUAGE 20	Sentences are complete, clear, and varied in length. (NO fragment, comma splice, run on/ fused, or wording which is confusing or unclear) Capitalization of appropriate words and punctuation of titles Comma use Agreement of subject and verb in number as well as pronoun Verb tense -appropriate and consistent
RESEARCH 20	Works Cited or Bibliography page is in alphabetical order with each entry correctly written by style specification (MLA). Student attributes paraphrases or direct quotations to all information gathered from <u>any</u> source via in-text or parenthetical citation . (i.e. print source, database, internet, broadcast media, interview) Use of paraphrase or direct quotation indicates understanding of documenting sources to avoid plagiarism and its consequence of a grade of zero and school disciplinary action for any plagiarism.

Rubric for application essay (quiz grade) **due first day of school**

Work is at least 2 pages long in proper format: _____ out of 50

Work addresses the prompt's criteria: _____ out of 50

Rubric for application essay (final draft) **due date tbd**

FOCUS 10	Writing reaches 2 full pages
EVIDENCE 40	Prompt is clearly described and explained
ORGANIZATION 20	Demonstrate logical grouping of ideas. Sequence ideas in progression. Use transitions to clarify relationships . Provide effective introduction and conclusion as needed.
LANGUAGE 30	Sentences are complete, clear, and varied in length. (NO fragment, comma splice, run on/ fused, or wording which is confusing or unclear) Capitalization of appropriate words and punctuation of titles Comma use Agreement of subject and verb in number as well as pronoun Verb tense -appropriate and consistent

