

**College Essay and Résumé**  
**ENG IV**  
**8 Class Meetings**  
*Rev. August 2016*

<b>Essential Question</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the necessary characteristics of an effective college application essay?</li><li>• What are the necessary characteristics of an effective résumé?</li></ul>



<b>Enduring Understandings with Unit Goals</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EU #1: Regardless of form, effective writing pieces contain universal characteristics, such as a clear purpose, organization, meaningful elaboration, and sophisticated vocabulary.</li></ul>



<b>Standards</b>
<p><b>Common Core State Standards/College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards:</b></p> <p>RL.11-12.5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.</p> <p>W.11-12.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</p> <p>SL. 11-12.4: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range or formal and informal tasks.</p> <p>L.11-12.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p>

<b>MSMHS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Expectations</b>
<p><b>Competency 1:</b> Read and write effectively for a variety of purposes</p> <p><b>Competency 2:</b> Speak effectively with a variety of audiences in an accountable manner</p>

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**Competency 5:** Student takes responsibility for own learning, behavior and values human and cultural diversity.

**Unit Content Overview**

Students will identify the characteristics of effective narrative writing in preparation for the college application process. Through close readings and language analysis of exemplar essays, students will write a personal essay in response to a prompt found on the ubiquitous Common Application. Additionally, students will identify the characteristics of an effective résumé. After students learn about these characteristics, they will create their own resume. Readings for this unit include, but may not be limited to:

- Exemplar College Application Essays

**Learning Objectives**

**Students will be able to...**

- Identify the necessary characteristics (i.e., topic, organization, mechanics, style, and voice) of an effective college application essay by analyzing exemplar essays.
- Discuss in an accountable manner the similar elements of well-composed college essays
- Generate a possible response to each essay on the Common Application.
- Draft a well-composed college essay in response to one of the prompts on the Common Application.
- Reflect on their own writing and apply feedback to revise rough draft
- Edit and proofread college essays
- Identify the necessary characteristics of an effective résumé
- Develop a formal résumé

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#### Assured Learning Experiences

##### Differentiated Instruction/Instructional Strategies

- Grammar fundamentals
- Free response journaling (i.e., reflections on current event or ethical issue)
- Lecture
- Guided whole-class and small-group Accountable Talk
- Reading strategies including annotated text and pre-reading vocabulary and instructor read-alouds and commentary (multiple disciplines)
- Individual writing conferences to provide targeted writing instruction and scaffolding
- Student exemplars

#### Assessments

##### FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- Do Nows
- Group Discussion, directed guided read-alouds
- Writing Prompts

##### SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- College Application Essay
- Formal résumé

#### Unit Tasks

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**Unit Task Name:** College Essay Group Discussion

**Description:** After students have learned about the Common Application essay and the necessary characteristics (i.e., topic, organization, mechanics, style, and voice) of an effective college application essay, they will engage in a group discussion. During the group discussion, students will be given multiple examples of Common Application essays. The students must use information learned about the necessary college application essay components to discuss how the writer uses literary elements to achieve his or her purpose (EU #1).

**Evaluation:**

MSMHS Rubric 2: Accountable Talk

**Unit Resources**

- MSMHS School-wide Rubrics
- Internet databases
- Laptops
- Model college essays
- Model résumé