

# My college essay plan

Name:

Date:

If you want to write a college essay, you should have a plan, even if it's a basic one like this. Knowing what's coming can help you map out your journey and give you a sense of what's to come. It's okay if you can't answer all the questions yet.

Visit [essayquest.com/plan](https://essayquest.com/plan) for detailed information about each of these questions.

## How will I know what college essays are?

If you don't know what a college essay looks like, odds are you won't write a good one. Assume you know nothing. Which of these ways will you learn about college essays?

- Take [EssayQuest's self-directed, 20-minute online workshop](#)
- Talk with my college counselor or English teacher
- Search online for other resources
- Read a book on college essays
- Ask my cousin, the English major (usually not a good idea)

When will I do this? \_\_\_\_\_

## What kinds of essays will I have to write?

"College essay" usually refers to the 650-word Common or Coalition Application essay: an engaging, authentic short story that shows who you are. Learn more at [essayquest.com/plan](https://essayquest.com/plan).

- The Common/Coalition Application essay
- The University of California essays
- Essays for schools not on a shared application
- Essays for Canadian or other foreign schools
- Other essays (if you're not sure, just say yes)

## What kind of resources will I use to write my college essays?

Even if you write well, you've probably never written anything like this before. Where will you get support, guidance, and feedback? Anyone helping you should learn about college essays from the same source as you. You all need to be on the same page.

- EssayQuest, the self-directed, teen tested, nothing-like-school online program
- Personal mentoring with Essay Mentors (we're the people who created EssayQuest)
- Another online program that's a better fit for me
- A college counselor, English teacher, or tutor (be sure they know college essays)
- An in-person or virtual college essay workshop
- My parents (careful, this can get rough)
- Will do it on my own (that's ok, but please have someone proofread it at least)
- Something else \_\_\_\_\_

## When are my essays due?

You may not be sure yet, but what application deadlines do you think you'll have? If you're not sure about a deadline, check it for now.

- Super early or rolling deadlines (before November 1)
- Early decision/action (November 1–15)
- U. of California/other state universities (November 15–30)
- Most regular decision deadlines (January 1–15)
- Later deadlines (after January 15)

## When will I start working on my essays?

We recommend starting as soon as you're done with Junior year classes and standardized tests. It takes longer than you think to write a college essay; the earlier you start the better off you'll be.

- Right after Junior year ends (great)
- Later in the summer (also great)
- When school starts (you're gonna be busy)
- A month before the first deadline (no later, please)
- A week before the first deadline (it'll be ugly)
- YOLO

Learn about college essays, EssayQuest, and our other programs at [essayquest.com/plan](https://essayquest.com/plan)

