

12th Grade Summer Assignment

Welcome to your SENIOR year! For your summer assignment, you will write the first draft of your college personal statements AND read *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.

1. For the personal statement assignment, you may do ONE of the following:
 - a. Answer TWO of the UC Personal Insight Questions (max 350 words *each*)
 - b. Answer ONE of the Common Application Essay Prompts (650 words)

Turn your essays into turnitin.com by Monday, August 14th at 10:00 pm AND bring a paper to class on the first day.

Class ID: 15472694

Password: corebaby

2. Read *Catcher in the Rye* and be prepared for a quotation-based reading exam on the first day of school (Tuesday, August 15th). You will also be required to write an in-class AP-style essay on the text Friday, August 18th.

2017-2018 FRESHMAN UC PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions/>

Directions: Although for the actual UC application you will write four of the eight essays, for THIS summer assignment, you will write on TWO of the prompts. Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words. On the top of your assignment, write the prompt and your word count.

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
 6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
 7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
 8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?
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2017-2018 Common Application Essay Prompts

<http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/common-application-announcements-2017-2018-essay-prompts>

Directions: Choose ONE prompt. The word limit for the essay is 650. On the top of your assignment, write the prompt and your word count.

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. 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.
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Personal Statement Tips:

- **Present your information and ideas in a focused, deliberate and meaningful manner.** A personal statement that is simply a list of qualities or accomplishments usually is *not* persuasive.
- **Write responses that get right to the point.** These are short essays, so there is little room for wandering. Don't worry about being abrupt — you need to get your information out there.
- **Use specific, concrete examples and language.** Avoid generalities like "being on the track team was fun" and go right for the details. Make sure your response directly addresses the prompt, avoid a collection of facts or examples, and expand on — don't simply repeat — information contained in your application.
- **Adhere to word restrictions.** Keep to the word count as closely as you can — a few words over or under the limit is okay, but be careful.
- **Ensure that the responses complete the application.** The personal statement answers are an extension of your application. They should give new information, not repeat things you've already put in your application.

Catcher in the Rye

As you read *Catcher in The Rye*, consider the following guiding questions. They will help you prepare for class discussions and the in-class essay on Friday, 8/18, but you will not need to formally submit written responses to these questions at this time.

1. Consider the following symbols in the novel: Pencey Prep (the students and their major benefactor), the carousel, the ducks in Central Park, Allie's mitt, the red hunting hat, and the museum and the mummies. What might each represent?
2. Consider Holden's disdain for "phonies." Why does he hate this idea so much? Next, consider his own thoughts and actions (two very different ideas). Where does Holden fit into the world of phonies?
3. J.D. Salinger's diction (word choice) for Holden Caulfield is unique and interesting. His voice is easily distinguished among other iconic literary characters. What do you find interesting/unique/distinguishable about Holden's style of speech? What types of words does he use? What is the tone?
4. Throughout the novel, Holden pretends to be other people. What purpose might this serve?
5. Throughout the novel, Holden attempts to call many people for help. Holden wants to call Jane several times, but never does. Why do you think this is so? Who else does Holden attempt to call? How might phone calls serve as a metaphor in the novel?
6. One place Holden arguably feels comfort and happiness is in the museum. Why does he like it there so much? What specifically does he say about it?
7. Although Allie, Holden's brother, is not actually alive in the novel, he is an important character. Holden even talks to him throughout the novel. This is called an apostrophe. What purpose might this serve in the novel?
8. In one of the most powerful scenes in the novel, Holden takes his sister Phoebe for a ride on the carousel in Central Park. Why is this scene so important?
9. Consider the significance of the title: *The Catcher in the Rye*. It's an allusion to a Robert Burns poem, "Comin' Thro' the Rye" (look it up). What is the difference between "meeting" and "catching," and what does the protagonist fail to realize by this misunderstanding?
10. Why do we label the "f-word" *profanity*, and what does it mean to be profane? What exactly is *profane* about what that word, given what it represents to Holden? What does he fear will be the effect of this profane word? Is he right?