

COPTIC EDU

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TIP for Seniors

A good essay takes 2 drafts, a great essay takes 4-6 drafts. Start drafting ASAP. Get feedback and help with editing by sending to: drcynthiacolon@copticedu.org

The Common App, UC and Cal State applications are open.

Create a profile and begin filling in the easy parts while you work on your essays.

TIP for Parents

If your teen plans on attending college in the Fall of 2018, be sure your have filed your 2016 tax returns.

1. You can file for financial aid at fafsa.ed.gov
2. Deadline is March 1, 2018, but do not delay in applying.
3. For private colleges, you may also need to apply to the CSS Profile found at: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>

The College Essays

AQs get your foot in the door, PQs make you stand out. - Dr. Colón

Academic Qualities (AQs) are your “stats” - your test scores, GPA, and high school curriculum. You need these to become an candidate for entrance. In other words, everyone applying to San Diego State or Cal State Fullerton or all applicants to Berkeley or UCLA have similar AQs. Ask yourself: “How will I stand out?”

Personal Qualities (PQs) answer these questions: 1) Who am I, 2) What am I good at, 3) How do I spend time outside of class, and 4) Why are these things important to me. Answering these questions will help you decide what to include in your essays.

If you are applying to any of the UC schools, you will need to write FOUR separate essays with a maximum of 350 words each.

Last year UCLA received over 108,000 applications, Berkeley read just under 100,000. If you take away nothing else today, hear this: **START DRAFTING YOUR ESSAYS NOW.** See my top 4 tips for writing the essay below.





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Your Superpower Becomes Your Leadership

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TRUTH: Leadership doesn't come because of a title; a title comes because of demonstrated leadership.

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors: if you are wondering how you will earn the coveted spot of President, Captain, Editor in Chief, Drum Major, or Grand Pooh Bah, ask yourself, "What is my superpower?" Here are four things you can do:

- FUEL OTHERS: Offer to bring snacks to a meeting, an after school competition, or weekend practice.
- GIVE YOUR TIME: Volunteer for an extra shift to work the snack bar or sell dance tickets at lunch.
- CO-PILOT: Stay late to assist other leaders. Help organize a meeting, clean up the locker room, or finish the last article for the newspaper.
- BE YOURSELF: Always, always, always - be a positive role model to others.

TIP: Actions speak louder than words.

Top 4 Tips for Writing your College Essay:

1 - There are 7 Categories you will choose to write about: people, places, leadership, experiences, hobbies, objects, or work. Choose the TOP 3-6 things you value most and find a way to include them in your application.

<http://drcynthiacolon.com/temp/college-admissions-essays/college-admissions-essays/>

2 - "Think less about what you think we want to hear, and more about what you want to say." Gary Clark, Director of Admissions at UCLA. Do not overthink this essay. I promise you, what you have to say about yourself is interesting. Keep it simple vs. philosophical. Use concrete examples vs. metaphors.

3 - "What you do becomes your resume. WHY you do it becomes your essay." In other words, the essay is NOT about student council, it's about how it helped you discover your leadership. Don't write about the basketball team's winning or losing season, describe a memory to talk about teamwork, work ethic, or friendships made.

4 - Draft, Get Feedback, Re-Draft. Keep writing. I have worked with hundreds of students and less than 10% of what was written in the first draft remains in the last draft. A good essay takes 1-2 drafts, a stand out essay will take 4-6 drafts. Decide today that YOU ARE WORTH THE EFFORT!

