

## English IV: The College Application/Personal Essay Unit

### Writing Reflection

#### Purpose:

Writing is a recursive activity. You can only become a better writer by writing frequently and writing more. The goal in any 12<sup>th</sup> grade English class is to develop our skills of writing in order to show our understanding, our ability to persuade, or our ability to inform. While you may not enter a field where you will be writing as much as, say, a novelist, there are very few professions that don't require you to write for a specific purpose or to read another writer's words.

#### Objective:

Now that you have completed the College Application/Personal Essay Unit, it's time to pause and reflect upon your successes and think about ways to improve for the next writing assignment in our class. You will look back at your performance over the last 4 weeks as we worked on composition, tone and style, and editing and revising. You should see a strong link between the effort that you put into this writing-intensive unit and the score that you earn for your college application/personal essay.

#### Steps:

1. Please respond thoughtfully to the questions listed below.
2. On the back of this page, please write a reflective paragraph (FULL SENTENCES, PLEASE) regarding:
  - a. your perceived level of effort,
  - b. how closely you followed the assignments for the entire unit,
  - c. how engaged you were in the topic that you selected,
  - d. how thoroughly you completed the essay.

#### Questions and Reflective Writing:

1. Which Common App Essay Question did you select? # \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did you select this specific essay prompt?

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3. Did you complete EVERY assignment leading up to the **final** copy of your College Application/Personal Essay? (circle one) YES or NO
4. Did you conference AT LEAST once with Ms. Russell-Williams? (circle one) YES or NO
5. What was one area that was suggested for you to focus upon after that conference?

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6. How many people did you have read your rough draft of your College Application/Personal Essay?  
\_\_\_\_\_ people
7. How many separate times did you sit down to work specifically on your rough draft? \_\_\_\_\_ sittings
8. Did you meet the word count requirement of 500 to 650 words? (circle one) YES or NO
9. Did you read your essay out loud to yourself AT LEAST ONCE before you uploaded your essay to Turnitin.com? (circle one) YES or NO
10. What score did you predict for yourself on the College Application/Personal Essay Writing Rubric? (circle one):

**1 (Not Yet)      2 (Needs Improvement)      3 (Proficient)      4 (Advanced)**

