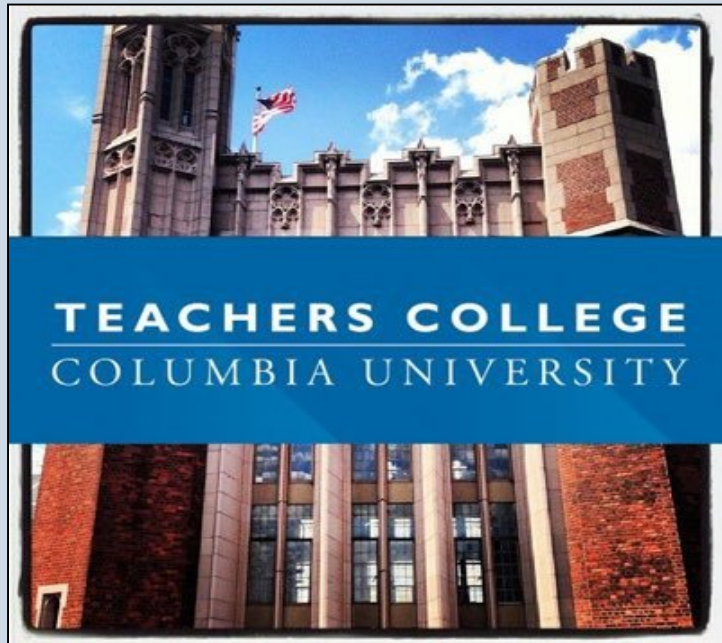



TURN  
PERSONAL  
ESSAY  
WRITING  
INTO  
*EASY*  
WRITING

A PRESENTATION BY NANCY GOLDMAN, ED.D.  
TO LEVITTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ABOUT ME



What's Your Story?

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a yellow pencil, pointing it towards the end of the handwritten text 'What's Your Story?' on a white, lined notebook page. The text is written in a cursive, purple ink. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, and the pencil is held between the thumb and index finger. The background shows several horizontal lines on the notebook paper, with the text 'What's Your Story?' written on the top-most line.

# FIRST-YEAR APPLICATION

## APPLICANT

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last/Family/Sur (Enter name **exactly** as it appears on official documents.)      First/Given      Middle (complete)      Jr., etc.

Preferred name, if not first name (only one) \_\_\_\_\_ Former last name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  Female  Male      US Social Security Number, if any \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy      Required for US Citizens and Permanent Residents applying for financial aid via FAFSA

Preferred Telephone  Home  Cell Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Area/Country/City Code      Area/Country/City Code

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ IM Address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent home address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number & Street      Apartment #

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town      County or Parish      State/Province      Country      ZIP/Postal Code

**If different from above, please give your current mailing address for all admission correspondence.** (from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_)  
(mm/dd/yyyy)      (mm/dd/yyyy)

Current mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number & Street      Apartment #

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town      County or Parish      State/Province      Country      ZIP/Postal Code

If your current mailing address is a boarding school, include name of school here: \_\_\_\_\_

## FUTURE PLANS

Your answers to these questions will vary for different colleges. If the online system did not ask you to answer some of the questions you see in this section, this college chose not to ask that question of its applicants.

College \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy

Entry Term:  Fall (Jul-Dec)       Spring (Jan-Jun)      Do you intend to apply for need-based financial aid?       Yes  No

**common  
app**



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.

**common  
app**



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?

**common  
app**

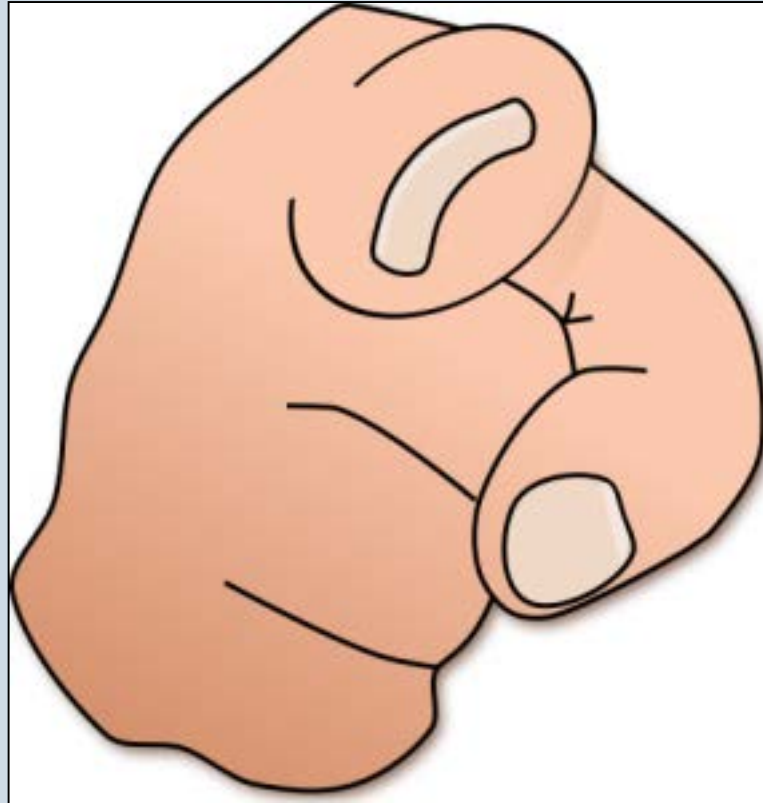


Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

# WHERE TO FIND STORIES?

- Share your passion.
- Describe an adversity you've faced and how you overcame it.
- Choose a time when you didn't follow the crowd.
- Focus on a small moment.





# HOW PARENTS CAN HELP STUDENTS FIND STORIES

- Brainstorm a list of experiences, accomplishments and activities. **Focus on what these meant to your child, not the actual events.**
- What personality traits and values does your child want to convey? What message does he/she want to send?
- What is your child passionate about? Why?

# HOW STUDENTS CAN PREPARE

- Make a list of all the essays he/she must write, the requirements and deadlines for each.
- Read the essays that were accepted by the schools to which he/she is applying.
- Answer reflective questions such as:
  - What do I value?
  - How did I make that decision?
  - What does this mean to me?
  - Why is this important?

# HOW PARENTS CAN HELP DURING THE WRITING

1. Remember your child is stressed.
2. Be patient. This is a process not a one-time event.
3. Make sure your child answers the question and stays within the word limit.
4. Provide time management by helping your child prioritize essays and stick to deadlines.
5. Proofread the essay for grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, complicated language, and confusing logic.



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
CARRY  
ON**