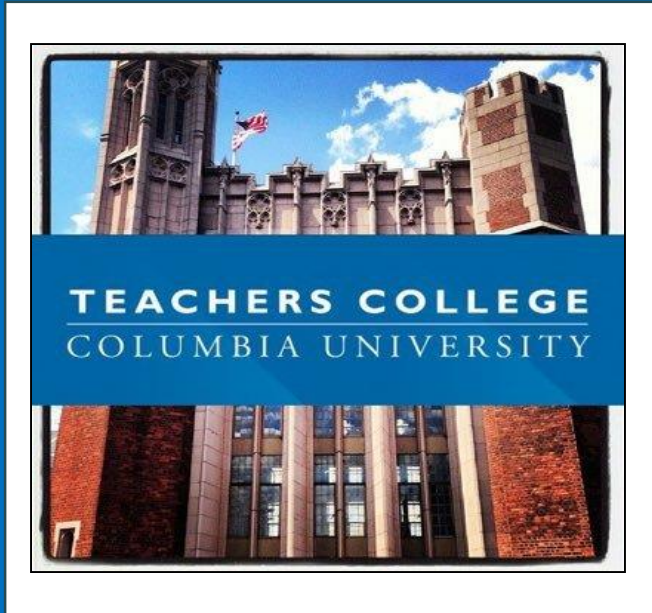



TURN
PERSONAL
ESSAY
WRITING
INTO
EASY
WRITING

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, writing the question "What's Your Story?" in purple ink on a sheet of white lined paper. The paper has several horizontal lines, and the text is written on one of them. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the pencil tip touching the paper. The entire scene is set against a solid blue background.

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 _____

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.



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?

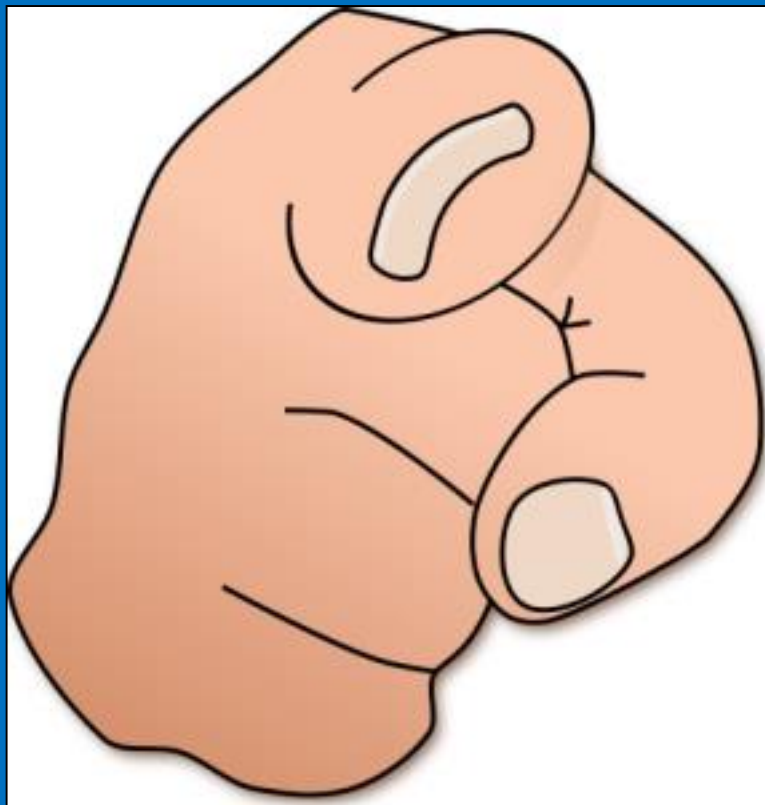


Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.



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.
- Share about a time you had to make a difficult decision or choice and how you made it.



STORIES TO AVOID



- Politics
- Illicit behavior
- Religion – unless it is a significant part of your life
- Sports – find a new angle
- World Peace (or other big topics)

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP STUDENTS FIND STORIES

- Brainstorm a list of experiences, accomplishments, and activities. **Focus on what these have meant to your child, more so than 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? How have they changed or grown as a result of this passion?

OTHER WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

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.

HOW STUDENTS CAN PREPARE

- Make a list of all the essays you must write, and the requirements and deadlines for each.
- Read the essays that were accepted by the schools to which you are applying.
- Keep a journal or a diary.
- Think about songs, books, smells, and sights you like, what stood out to you about them, and why.
- 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 to me?

QUESTIONS?

