



# SUMMER CHECKLIST

## Specifically, you should:

- ✓ Own this responsibility and this experience; be positive, proactive, and empowered!
- ✓ Review your transcript when it is mailed to your home in August. This is what will go to the colleges you apply to.
- ✓ If you have not already done so, complete and submit the SENIOR AUTOBIOGRAPHY and ask your parent/guardian to complete the BRAG LETTER.
- ✓ If you have not done so already, ask an academic teacher(s) if he/she would write a positive recommendation for you. Follow up with a thank you note/email.
- ✓ Visit colleges virtually and in person! Continue to research information about colleges from several sources. There is a wealth of information on college websites. Please take advantage of these excellent resources.
- ✓ Review the John Jay High "School Step-by-Step Guide" for the Class of 2023. (This guide can be found on the Counseling Center's web page or on Naviance on the bottom left of your home page after clicking "Document Resources.")
- ✓ Become familiar with the Common Application (<https://www.commonapp.org/>). This is available August 1<sup>st</sup>. We recommend that you work on this application over the summer.
- ✓ Important Common Application note: **(DO NOT complete the Recommenders and FERPA sections on the Common Application until you meet with your counselor in September.)**
- ✓ Write a rough draft of your college essay (refer to the essay writing guidelines in the Step-by-Step Guide).
- ✓ If pursuing a major that requires a portfolio (art, music, theatre, design, dance, etc...). Artists should use this time to identify requirements and prepare any required portfolios.
- ✓ If applicable, continue to prepare for the SAT and/or ACT. Check the dates for tests and registration deadlines. Summer test dates are currently available, (but not at John Jay HS). Go to <http://www.collegeboard.com> to register for the SAT and <http://www.actstudent.org/index.html> for the ACT. If logged into Naviance, click on the links located on the bottom left of your home screen.
- ✓ If you are planning to apply Early Decision and/or Early Action, make an appointment to meet with your counselor as soon as you return to school in September. Be aware of all deadlines.
- ✓ Transcripts: Finalized transcripts will not be ready until mid-September. Please do not request transcripts until that time.
- ✓ Consider creating a resume to reflect the depth and breadth of your extracurricular activities.
- ✓ If pursuing college level athletics (DI or DII) create an account with the NCAA Eligibility Center (<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>)

\* Available for download at the Counseling Center link on klschools.org or on Naviance under "Document Resources" towards the bottom of your home page.

## You can do this!

# **Common Application Essay Prompts**



## **The 2022-2023 essay prompts are as follows:**

- 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?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 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?
- 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.



# **ADVICE FROM** **OUR** **GRADUATES**

- “Start your Common Application early. If you leave it until the last minute, you’ll be very rushed.”
- “Apply to a variety of schools reaches, targets and safeties.”
- “Don’t stress too much about it, get the essay done early on and everything else is so much easier. Don’t freak out and don’t wait until the last minute.”
- “Research where you want to go before you apply, and also after you get accepted.”
- “Start early!”
- “Have multiple people review your essay.”
- “Visit your counselor frequently.”
- “Make the decision for you and not someone else.”
- “If you want to know more about a school, reach out to someone you know that goes there. You’ll learn a lot more by doing that than any other way.”
- “The college process is crazy and it’s stressful, but you will get through it. It is helpful to know that there is not one perfect school, there are a bunch!”
- “Get stuff done early!”
- “Watch your senior year grades! Colleges get sent your mid- year grades.”
- “My advice to you all is that you start your applications early. Trust me, when you have all of your applications completed, it is the best feeling in the world!”
- “You’re going to get in somewhere; stop freaking out!”
- “Definitely have a draft of your general essay before school starts and have teachers and counselors look at it.”
- “Don’t wait until the last minute!”
- “Do everything in the summer! Don’t get ‘married’ to a school, you might not get in or your opinion of the school may change.”
- “I know it cliché, but don’t stress! Everything will work out the way it’s supposed to.”