



**Please do these two things before your Common App Zoom session!**

1. Open a [Common Application](#) account

The Common App is currently set up for the class above you, but it will “roll over” to your year in August, and you can still fill out the main section now. At that point, you will review what you already completed to make sure that everything you did works with the updated version of the app and that no new questions have been added.

- Use the email address you use when you sign up for email lists, campus visits, etc. You want everything to be under the same email address.
- Under “Which best describes you,” select “Planning to start college in 2023.”
- If you are feeling motivated, fill out the info under the “Common App” tab.

2. Review the Common Application essay prompts

The majority of our students choose the first or last topic, but you don’t have to stick to those and can certainly use the other topics for brainstorming purposes.

- *Prompt 1: 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.*
- *Prompt 2: 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?*
- *Prompt 3: Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?*
- *Prompt 4: 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?*
- *Prompt 5: Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.*
- *Prompt 6: 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?*
- *Prompt 7: 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.*

## **Additional tips and resources that you can review before or after the Zoom session:**

### Common App Data Portion

- [Table](#) to compile activities.
- College Essay Guy's helpful guide to completing the [Activities](#) section.
- [Guide](#) from Collegewise.
- You will probably need help from your family in order to answer some of the questions.
- Only include your Social Security Number if you intend to apply for need-based financial aid.

Common App Essay - Regardless of the specific prompts, tell me a story or share a pocket of your life that reflects you and illustrates a key quality or two of yours! Focus on WHY you are sharing this story. What is its meaning, and what does it say about you?

- College Essay Advisors' [guide](#).
- College Essay Guy's free [resources](#).
- If you'd like to see examples of actual essays that colleges have liked, check these out: [Connecticut College](#), [Johns Hopkins University](#), and [Tufts University](#).
- The [This I Believe](#) website can also provide inspiration. Click "Explore."