



Essay Prompts

Instructions for younger students:

Ask students to write a short essay about their college dream. Hang these in the hall or around your classroom.

Encourage students to think about:

- What kind of college they want to attend. Do they want to go to a large one or a small one? Do they want to go far away or stay close to home? Why do they want to go?
- What they want to do in college. Do they want to play sports or be part of school clubs? Will they study abroad? Will they live on or off campus?
- What kind of career they want. Why would they like it? What does someone in that career do? What do they have to know and be able to do to be good at their job?

Instructions for older students:

Ask students to write short stories/works based on the following writing prompts:

- **Fiction:** It's your first day at college. Write about your experience. Be sure to think about your surroundings, how you feel, what you do and whom you meet.
- **Nonfiction:** Write an instruction manual to help fifth- and sixth-graders explore their college options.
- **Fiction:** You're a super hero, and your mission is to make sure students in your hometown attend and succeed in college. Write and/or draw a comic strip about how you help your classmates overcome an obstacle standing in the way of their college dreams. Be sure you:
 - Believe in your mission. Think about the reasons why college will be good for your classmates and why you're fighting to help them succeed.
 - Understand your "enemy." Think about the things that might get in the way of students who want to go to college and achieve their dreams.
- **Nonfiction:** Interview people who went to college and write a news story about their experience. Talk with them about the obstacles they overcame in order to succeed, and ask them what they remember most about their time in college. Ask what advice they have to help students prepare for and succeed in college.
- **Nonfiction:** Research a two-year college program and write an ad or brochure about the program.
- **Nonfiction:** Write a tweet (140 *characters* maximum) about why college is important. Find a photo or link to go with your post.

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