

SENIOR SCOOP

October 2009

College Essay Workshops in the Writing Lab!

English teachers will be available from 2:45-3:45 PM on the following dates in the New Writing Lab (C-127) to help seniors review and improve their college essays:

Tuesday 10/6	Thursday 10/8
Tuesday 10/13	Thursday 10/15
Tuesday 10/20	Thursday 10/22
Tuesday 10/27	Thursday 10/29

Bring your rough draft and get an 'on-the-spot' assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of your essay.



WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW IF I PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE NEXT YEAR?

- ✓ Fine tune your list of colleges and universities. (Reach, Target, Probable)
- ✓ Visit colleges and attend college fairs.
- ✓ Gather the applications for the colleges that match your criteria for major, location, size, cost, etc.
- ✓ Review each application to understand exactly what you will be expected to complete.
- ✓ Request a recommendation from a teacher(s). Provide stamped and addressed envelopes to your teachers for each school to which you are applying.
- ✓ Develop your ideas for the essay questions on each application.
- ✓ Complete a pink transcript request form for each college to which you plan to apply and return it to the guidance office along with \$1 for each college.
- ✓ Complete the Senior Sketch and Parent/Guardian Questionnaire and return to guidance for a counselor letter of recommendation.
- ✓ Discuss financial aid with your parents. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **ORHS Financial Aid Night Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 6:30 PM** in the Library

A FEW TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY



- * Allow yourself time to concentrate on the content, insights or theme that you would like to develop.
- * Write on anything that makes you unique to all of the other applicants. Include information about you that may not have been included on the rest of your application.
- * Write in your own voice. Use your own words and phrases. Do not rely on a thesaurus to sound impressive. Are you using words that you normally would use? Are you saying what you know is true instead of what you think others want to hear
- * Write several drafts until you're satisfied that you've expressed your thoughts or topic clearly.
- * Evaluate your organization, structure, transitions, language, sentences, and wording.
- * Check that your final draft remains focused and does not digress from your topic.
- * Edit for correctness. Check mechanics, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Remember to run your essay through spell check!
- * Have someone critique and edit your essay



BE AWARE OF YOUR DEADLINES!

Seniors with a college application **deadline of November 1st** must submit a transcript release form with \$1.00, a senior sketch and parent/guardian questionnaire to the guidance office **no later than October 14th**.

Have you requested your formal letters of recommendation? Remember to provide your teachers with plenty of time to write a letter. Don't forget to provide the teacher with envelopes that are addressed and stamped!

College Mini-Fairs

Located in the Multi-Purpose Room

Friday, October 2nd (in Guidance Office)

Wells College

Wednesday, October 7th

Champlain College
Chester College of New
England
Daniel Webster
Eckerd College
Elms College
Keene State College
Lesley College
Plymouth State University
Southern NH University
Stonehill College
University of Vermont
Wentworth Institute of
Technology
McGill University

Wednesday, October 14th

Bay Path College
BayState College
College of Saint Rose
Fairfield
Gordon College
Johnson State College
Lasell College
Michael's School of Hair
Design and Esthetics
New England School of
Communication
St. Joseph's College of
Maine
UMASS - Amherst
University of New England
University of Southern
Maine
WPI



Financial Aid Night

Presented by NHHEAF

Get step-by-step instruction on how to
apply for financial aid
Tuesday November 17th, 2009
at 6:30 PM



FALL SAT TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline
November 7, 2009	October 1, 2009
December 5, 2009	October 30, 2009
January 23, 2010	December 15, 2009
March 13, 2010	February 4, 2010
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010

Late Registration available for additional fee

FALL ACT TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010

Late Registration available for additional fee

Why attend a two-year college?

There are many advantages to attending a two-year institution versus a four-year institution. First, two-year colleges offer noncompetitive admission policies. This means students with lower grade point averages (GPA) that demonstrate potential for future academic success will most likely be accepted to many two-year colleges. Second, if you are a student who is unable to identify a particular career direction, attending a two-year college will allow you to explore all of your career options. Third, the tuition of a two-year college is significantly lower than most four-year institutions and can result in significant savings when credits are transferred.

After successfully completing a 2-year college program, most students will receive their associate's degree. There are many professions that require only a two-year degree, such as a paralegal. The guidance office has several resources to research careers that require an associate's degree.

Many two-year colleges have joint admissions programs with four-year institutions, commonly referred to as "2+2" programs or articulation agreements. A student could attend a two-year institution for two years and transfer the credits gained during those years to a four-year college towards a bachelor's degree. This program requires students to identify their interest in the joint admissions program at the start of their first two years and uphold a minimum GPA to enter a four-year college. We encourage you to discuss the possibility of a two-year college with your counselor.

RESOURCES

There are a number of books available to help with the college process both in the ORHS Library and the Guidance Office. The titles include:

.....*In the ORHS Library*

Acing the College Application
On Writing the College Application Essay
50 Successful Harvard Application Essays
College Life: A down-to-earth guide to dealing with college life
Admissions Confidential

.....*In the Guidance Office*

Rugg's Recommendations
College Board Book of Majors
College Board College Handbook
Colleges That Change Lives
Looking Beyond the Ivy League
368 Best Colleges
College Guide for Students with Learning Disabilities
Fisk Guide to Colleges