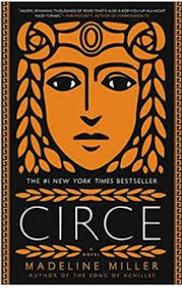


2020 Summer Assignments - Mrs. Stager- English 4 - all sections



English 4 Summer Reading:

Circe by Madeline Miller; available in paperback, e-book and audio book. **The study guide (see link below) is due by the first day of class** and will be used to write an essay during the first few weeks of school. The novel will be used in the first unit of study in Eng 4.

Link to info on the book and the study guide:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kXsSizZNNt9eqlMFTSD7nmIVUiuiftqGgp9r7fGs5d0/edit?usp=sharing>

AND

Every student in English 4 is required to write a first draft college application essay and share it with Mrs. Stager on Google Docs by the first day of school.



Instructions:

- Select a Common App essay topic listed below OR you may write based on a prompt for a specific school to which you are applying. ****NOTE:** If you are writing an essay for a specific college, you must include the entire essay prompt. This will allow me to ensure you are addressing the essay prompt adequately.
- Review the rubric for complete instructions; a large part of your grade for this 1st draft is following the instructions.
- Keep in mind that this is your first draft, and we will revise once school begins; sometimes getting started is the most difficult part of the process (see below for essay tips).
- If you need a finalized essay for an application before school starts, please let me know. I will check my email a few times a week throughout the summer.

DO NOT WRITE YOUR ESSAY ABOUT COVID - If you write about COVID, will ask you to

re-write it. Millions of students have had their lives affected by COVID, and your essay needs to highlight what is unique about you. There is an **additional** place on the Common APP for you to write about COVID should you choose. Article from *Forbes* about COVID and essays: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherrim/2020/05/23/the-common-application-introduces-an-optional-covid-19-writing-section/#1993ad7c76af>

See gray box at end of prompts for details about COVID.

2020-21 Common Application Essay Prompts:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is ifso meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

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?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
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?

If you want to write about how COVID has affected you, there is an ADDITIONAL prompt on the Common App for you to do so. You will need to write on the **REGULAR prompt AND the COVID prompt** if you want to say how COVID affected you. I will be happy to review both if you do so. Below is the question applicants will see:

“Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces.

Do you wish to share anything on this topic? Y/N

Please use this space to describe how these events have impacted you.

The question will be optional and will appear in the Additional Information section of the application. The response length will be limited to 250 words.” (commonapp.org)

Assignment details/ FAQ's:

- **HOW SHOULD THE ESSAY BE FORMATTED AND HOW WILL IT BE GRADED? See Rubric at the end of this assignment.**

Initial essays will be graded based on the attached rubric. Essays will be revised during the 1st marking period and graded a second time.

1. Between 500 and 650 words. *Note: Common app has a max of 650 words.*

2. No cover page - at the top left of first page include: your name, Mrs. Stager, English 4 and Period #, due date. The title is placed in center of page: *include the Common App Prompt # or the College specific question if not using a Common App prompt.*
3. MLA format: 1 inch margins all around, double-spaced; Times New Roman font size 12.
4. Grammatically and mechanically correct and proofread.
5. Shared with me via Google Docs (choose "can comment") using your thsrocks email on or by 1st day of school .
6. Final essays will be submitted to turnitin.com - information to follow once school resumes.

- **DO I STILL NEED TO WRITE AN ESSAY IF THE COLLEGE I'M APPLYING TO DOES NOT REQUIRE AN ESSAY OR IF I'M ALREADY ACCEPTED TO A SCHOOL?**

YES. If you are applying to a school which requires no essay or are already accepted, you will still benefit from the experience of writing, and it will help me get to know you and evaluate your writing styles. These essays may also be used as the basis for scholarship application essays.

- **WHY USE A COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPT?**

Currently, over 500 colleges accept the Common Application, which makes it easy to apply to multiple schools with just one form. These essay prompts are general enough that you can tailor them for another application or scholarship essays.

- **WHAT IF I PLAN TO SUBMIT MY ESSAY TO A COLLEGE DURING THE SUMMER?**

If you plan to submit your essay to a college during the summer and would like me to review it prior to submission, please share it with me on Google Docs and indicate your deadline. I will be checking my email regularly throughout the summer.

- **WHEN IS THE ESSAY DUE FOR CLASS AND HOW DO I SUBMIT IT?**

The essay is due by the first day of school. Essays should be shared with me via Google Docs; they do not need to be submitted to turnitin until we return to school; I will provide information once we start classes.

- **WHY DO I HAVE TO WRITE MY ESSAY NOW?**

As the school year gets busy and college deadlines loom, you will have your essay finalized and ready to submit by October. This will be one less thing you need to worry about during the often stressful application process. Even if you decide later to apply to a school with a specific essay, it's easier to have an essay to edit rather than starting from scratch. (You'll thank me later!)

- **WHAT SHOULD I SAY IN MY ESSAY? (i.e. What are they "looking" for?)**

"The Common App essay prompts have one purpose: to help you introduce yourself to your colleges. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you **apart from courses, grades, and test scores?** This is not a trick question. What you write is entirely up to you; write about yourself– what you love, where you come from, what you aspire to, how you spend your time, what bugs you, what inspires

you, who is important in your life” (commonapp.org). The essay should be genuine and sound like you; it should be something that sets you apart from other candidates and makes you memorable (in a positive way.) Keep in mind, this is your FIRST DRAFT. I am primarily checking to see if you followed directions and answered the question - see rubric. We will be working on edits in class well before the submission deadline. You will thank me for this later!!

Essay Writing Tips:

- For details about the essay portion, the entire Common App and the application process: <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- Visit the collegeboard.org website <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays> for information and helpful advice on writing a college essay.
- WATCH THIS!!!!!! A short video from Money Magazine and admission officers at Bucknell and Cornell Universities: <http://time.com/money/collection-post/4219965/write-better-college-essay/>
- The Princeton Review, Crafting an Unforgettable Essay:: <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay>
- USA Today: How to Write a College Essay: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/how-to-write-a-college-essay>

College Essay First Draft Submission Rubric

Eng. 4- Mrs. Stager

Component	Points Available	Points Earned
The essay must be between 500 and 650 words (for Common App) OR the length specified by the specific college to which you are applying. INCLUDE WORD COUNT ON YOUR PAPER (Click on “tools” then “word count” - make sure you are only counting the body of your essay.)	10	
No cover page. At the top left of first page include: your name, Mrs. Stager, English 4 and Period #, due date. No title.	10	
Common App prompt # or entire essay prompt is included (if not using a common app prompt)	10	
Follow MLA format: 1 inch margins all around, double-spaced; Times New Roman, font size 12, black font.	10	
Essay shared with me via Google Docs on or by 1st day of school	10	
Essays should be grammatically and mechanically correct and be proofread.	25	
Essay is in direct response to the essay prompt.	25	

Total	100	
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