

# The Common Application

Nearly 500 colleges and universities across the United States, along with schools in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Scotland and Switzerland, accept a single application for undergraduate enrollment, called the Common Application. The schools represent small and large, public and private, coed and single-sex, highly selective and modestly selective. To learn more information or to download the Common Application, go to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

When you create a Common App Online account, **be sure to enter the same username and password in the "Colleges I'm applying to" section of Naviance where it asks for your Common App username/password.** This allows Littleton High School to send your transcripts to the Common Application colleges you have indicated in Naviance. Also, by adding the teachers and/or counselor who will write your letters of recommendation onto the "Colleges I'm applying to" section of Naviance, their letters can be submitted online. (Be sure to give your teachers at least 10 school day's notice.)

As you fill out the Common Application, save your work often and logout after each session. Type your essay (500 words max.) in your Word document before cutting and pasting onto the application.

The essay choices include:

1. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
2. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
3. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
4. Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
5. A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
6. Topic of your choice.

Before sending, use Print Preview in Adobe Acrobat Reader (free software) to view your forms and to make sure you have no typos. Print your completed form and keep a copy for your records.

*\*Note:* In addition to the Common Application, some schools require supplementary information.