

## English Summer writing project for DPCR Juniors

Summer, 2017

### **Writing a college essay**

#### **1. Write one college essay (700 words, Max) using one of the following prompts:**

- a) 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.
- b) 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?
- c) 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?

#### **2. Write a second college essay (700 words, Max) using one of the following prompts:**

- a) Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- b) 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.
- c) Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

Note: Since you have already worked on these essays, I need you to make a real effort to make them the best you can. If you feel you need to write a third essay using another prompt, please do. This is for you and your future. Feel encouraged to work as hard as possible.

### **Writing a *memoir*.**

As you know, the word memoir comes from *memory*. A memoir is a narrative that has the intention of rescuing something from oblivion: We write memoirs about the things (people, places, moments) that we don't want to forget, about all we want others to remember. Humans make literature as a way to fight against time, death and oblivion. As a way to exist, and make what we love exist, after existence finishes.

When writing a memoir is important to give details, small details (the sounds around, the smells, the tone of a voice, the color of a car, the season of the year, the weather...) to make the narrative relatable. It is also important to write about something we care deeply about because that emotion, if written with honesty, will be also felt by the reader.

- 1) Now, I want you to write a memoir about anything you want. Just ask yourself: what do I want to be remembered for ever? What (person, moment, place...) do I want to save from oblivion? And start writing. Remember to include small details. Your memoir must be 2-3 pages long.

### **Writing an argumentative essay**

Have you ever had an argument with somebody? Me too. Sadly, some of those times the volume of the voice was louder than the clarity of the ideas. Sometimes we don't give or don't get enough time to express all that we want to express. That is why writing is so important: nobody can interrupt you when you write and you have the opportunity to say all you need to say, and to think carefully on how you say it. You can choose every word, every pause, you can go back and edit: you can sharpen your idea until is perfectly put into words.

Now you are about to write an argumentative essay. You will form an opinion and will defend it. You will tell me where you (intellectually) come from, when believing something. I need you to have your own ideas very clearly displayed in your mind, and to express them with the same clarity.

Topic: for you, **is technology (smartphones, the internet, etc...) making us smarter or dumber?** Are we using those resources in a meaningful way or are we spending too much time looking at kitty pictures instead of being aware of the news and current global events? What is the difference between information and knowledge? Do we have and use both, thanks to our access to technology?

**Pick one side of the argument is and write a 3 pages argumentative essay to support your ideas.** You are encouraged to do some research. If you do, please don't forget to quote and to cite your references.