

# COLLEGE ESSAYS RUBRIC 11H + CP

## GRADING CRITERIA

- ✓ Hook / strong opening
- ✓ Strong voice
- ✓ Balanced focus: the writer highlights himself/herself and does not get lost in the essay
- ✓ Writer looks attractive to colleges by highlighting positive characteristics
  - Maturity
  - Resilience
  - Discipline
  - Drive / Determination
  - Curiosity / Inquiry
  - Experience
  - Transformation in attitude or perspective
- ✓ Topic is strong, believable, and convincing (not weak, forced, or unremarkable)
- ✓ Conclusion is effective and thoughtful
- ✓ Avoids words, phrases, or concepts that a broad audience wouldn't understand
- ✓ Avoids trite or cliché approach
- ✓ Properly addresses the prompt
- ✓ Grammar, mechanics, and writing conventions

## FORMAT

- ✓ Typed, single-spaced, Times New Roman 12-pt font
- ✓ Topics are clearly labeled
- ✓ Word count included at the bottom of each essay

## WORD COUNT

- ✓ 400-500 words each