

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/IB/TOPS/MACS HOMEWORK 24

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____ GRADE: _____

Part 1: Personal Essay Writing

Read the following personal essay written by a high school senior, Kwasi Enin, who was accepted to all eight schools that he applied to, including all eight Ivy League Schools. According to a Business Insider article, Enin “scored a 2250 on his SAT, had taken 11 AP courses, and was in the top 2% of his graduating class, but that doesn't necessarily show him fully as an applicant. The answer could be in his college application essay.”

<http://www.businessinsider.com/college-essay-high-school-senior-into-every-ivy-league-university-2014-4>

A Life in Music

A wrong decision can be the beginning or end to a lifestyle. In the seventh grade, I nearly ended my music career by opting to select a simple course—*Music in Our Lives*—that met the state music requirement. But this decision would have left me empty. With the help of Ms. Brown, my then orchestra teacher, I was able to not only meet the basic requirement, but also continue the beginning of my musical journey. I am not a violist who has joyously played for nine years. I also take music in my life. It is the first self-taught and the longest course I have ever taken.

Music has become the spark of my intellectual curiosity. I directly developed my capacity to think creatively around problems due to the infinite possibilities in music. There are millions of combinations of key signatures, chords, melodies, and rhythms in the world of music that wait to become attached to a sheet of staff lines and spaces. As I began to explore a minute fraction of these combinations from third grade onwards, my mind began to formulate roundabout methods to solve any mathematical problem, address any literature prompt, and discover any exist in an undesirable situation. In middle school, my mind also started to become adept in the language of music. Play the works of different composers, such as *Kol Nidrei* by Max Bruch and *Coriolan Overture* by Ludwig Van Beethoven, expands my diverse musical vocabulary, my breadth of techniques and my ability to practice in order to succeed in solo performances.

Music has also become the medium for my roles in the community. Whole onstage as Big Jule of *Guys and Dolls* during my favorite musical, I helped create a wonderful atmosphere in the school auditorium by singing and dancing. Whenever I perform, whether as a bassist in Men's Doo Wop Group or as a violist in Chamber Ensemble, I become immersed in the conversations between performers and the audience. As I become lost in these conversations, I create blissful memories in which I am truly part of my community's culture—and eventually its history. I would not have the admiration of my teachers and friends if I had not let the charisma of music persuade me to become a performer in my school, town, and state.

Lastly, music has become the educator that has taught me the importance of leadership, teamwork and friendship. It has taught me the importance of order and balance. When I lead a group, I know how strong that group can be if every member puts on hundred perfect effort into our task. Leadership is not always about directing others. The most important task of a leader is to create harmony between each member of the group, which reveals the group's maximum potential. With improvement and balance comes success, and music taught me all of these virtues. The bonds I have made throughout my school years endure through stress. These powerful bonds came to me because my friends and I endured against the adversity found in high level pieces of musical literature. I thank my teachers, viola and voice for creating the environments that nurtured these friendships and learning experiences.

My haven for solace in and away from home is in the world of composers, harmonies and possibilities. My musical haven has shaped my character and without it, my life would not be half as wonderful as it is today. It was a wise decision to turn down the course Music in Our Lives. The self-guided journey know as music in my life excites my mind every day. My heart sings every day because the journey is always wonderful. Although I hope that my future career is in medicine, I love that I still have much to learn about and from the world of music.

Discuss any three aspects of Enin's personal essay and explain how they strengthened his application.

Aspects of Enin's essay	How they strengthened his application
1.	
2.	
3.	

Imagine that you have a chance to travel back in time to meet Kwasi Enin when he was thirteen years old. Imagine that you have a chance to be his classmate at that time in the past. Would you want to be his friend? What would your friendship be like? What conversations would you have with him?

Part 2: Respond to visual prompts

In response to the following pictures, write something coherent and intelligent, something that will make your application competitive. Use the rubric on page 5 to guide your writing. Do not exceed the lines provided.



Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
There is little evidence of structure and planning.	The response needs some organization.	The response is coherent and organized.	The response is very coherent and well organized.
There is minimal engagement with the images.	There can be greater engagement with the images.	The response makes use of details in the images,	The response is very imaginative. It makes use of interesting details in the images.
Grammar and word choice errors block comprehension.	Sometimes, grammar and word choice errors block comprehension.	Grammar errors are minor. There may be minor errors in diction.	Grammar errors are minor. There are no errors in diction.

THE END