**COLLEGE 105 TIME TO PREPARE & CREATE A STRATEGY FOR APPLYING**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN**

**TOPIC 3**

**THE COMMON APPLICATION**

In preparation for applying to the colleges of your choice especially if your college can be found on the Common Application (More than 800 colleges use the Common Application! At least one college in every state accepts it, with the exception of North Dakota. In addition, more than 50 international universities from 18 countries accept the Common Application.) then you should prepare yourself for writing your Personal Statement early on. The Personal Statement is a critical way you have the opportunity to share more about yourself and your Brand. Please do not take the responsibility of writing the PS lightly. It takes a lot of thought and multiple drafts. Most likely of the 4 year schools you are applying to at least half or more will be using the Common Application, which means this essay can be used for All those schools. If you start brainstorming the Personal Statement from the topic below early on you will be able to convey yourself in the best light.

These essay prompts are for First Year candidates Not transfer students from one college to another.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, 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 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 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?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you’ve already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 1**

Select one of the 7 essay topics and create a bunch of notes on the topic for my review.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 2**

Select a second essay topic out of the 7 above and create a bunch of notes on the topic for my review.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 3**

Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong and describe that community and your place in it as a bunch of notes for my review.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 4 – SET UP CALL WITH THE DEAN**

**Please have your questions and assignments available to discuss in a 15-30 minute block.**