During the process of completing your Common Application, you’ll be given various opportunities to provide long responses to essay style questions. We know what you’re thinking: That’s a lot of work! While we can’t promise that the composition of your essays will be easy, we can certainly make sure that you’re on track with what you need to do for each college that you plan on applying to.

**APPLICANT DASHBOARD**

That’s right! You’re trusty Common App Dashboard isn’t just used for seeing what your college application statuses are. You can click on the Writing Requirements tab to understand what different colleges expect of you when it comes to long, essay style responses. You can use this tab as a preparation and planning tool so you can stay on track with your applications.

![My Colleges Dashboard](image)

**REQUIREMENT STATUS ICONS**

Now that you have a sense of what writing opportunities are available to you after looking at the Writing Requirements tab within the Dashboard, how can you tell if the writing prompt is required or not? Three status icons will help you plan out your essay responsibilities regarding the Personal Essay (found within the Common App), Member Questions, and Writing Supplement (if a college offers one):

- **Required**: This icon lets you know that a writing prompt requires an answer before you can submit a form.
- **Optional**: This icon lets you know that a writing prompt is present but that you do not have to provide an answer to it before you can submit a form.
- **Additional Details**: This icon lets you know that there may be additional writing prompts that require a response before you can submit a form.
PERSONAL ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

Specific to the Personal Essay within the Writing screen of your Common App, each college that you apply to can either require a response or leave it as an optional writing prompt for you. Once you’ve added schools to your My Colleges list, navigate to the Personal Essay section in the Writing Screen to see which schools require the essay and which schools leave it as an optional writing prompt.

**Personal Essay**

Some colleges require submission of the personal essay with your Common Application. You may submit a personal essay to any college, even if it is not required by that college. If not required by a college, you will be given the option during submission to include your essay or not for that college. *

I understand

Here is the current list of colleges on your Dashboard and whether they require the Personal Essay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Not Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice University</td>
<td>Rosemont College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan University</td>
<td>Woodbury University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage College of Albany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Massachusetts Boston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesleyan University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even if a college does NOT require the Personal Essay, you may opt to submit it to that college.

**Personal Essay Confirmation**

Georgia State University does not require submission of the Personal Essay with your Common Application, but you may submit the Personal Essay to any college. Please indicate whether or not you wish to include your Essay with your application to this college. *

- Yes, include my personal essay.
- No, do not include my personal essay.

[Cancel] [Continue]