

*The New Coalition Application <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>*

**The Coalition** is a group of about 95 universities, including the 8 Ivy League schools, Stanford, and other private and public universities. They created a new college application portal with the hope creating access to a socio-economically and ethnically broader spectrum of students. Another intent was to extend the criteria admissions officer use to evaluate students beyond grades, AP courses, and SAT / ACT scores.

The Coalition Application went live July 1, 2016, and the list of schools accepting it is growing. This 2017 fall application season, University of Washington and University of Florida are using the Coalition Application exclusively. There are over 90 other schools accepting this application. About 700 universities accept the Common Application.

To use the Coalition Application, create a free account at the website above. Then you can:

Start using your LOCKER, where you can upload pictures, videos, documents you might want to include in your college applications. Students can begin as early as ninth grade on building their résumé for college. Collaborate with mentors using your locker. You can share things you post in your locker with coaches, counselors, and other mentors. They can comment on it (like on social media) and provide feedback. You don't necessarily have to create a locker, or use it if you've created it.

We can chat about how to make strategic use of this Locker feature, and how to curate carefully to present a holistic portfolio that shows more about who you are.

For now, the Coalition Application isn't integrated with the tools many school counselors use to send letters of recommendation and transcripts to colleges, like Naviance. That means counselors will have to use email and other tools to upload transcripts and letters of recommendation.

The Coalition has its own list of essay prompts, different from the Common Application and University of California essay prompts. If you're a student, this means more work. The Coalition suggests an essay of between 300 – 400 words, with a max of 550 words.

Essay prompts follow on the next page.

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## **The Coalition Application Essay**

In general, we have found that concise, straightforward writing is often the best for college essays, and that good essays are often 300 to 400 words in length . . . most application readers find college essays are rarely improved when they are longer than 500 to 550 words, and we strongly recommend you stay within that limit. For more information on specific application requirements, please consult the website for each institution to which you are applying, as requirements often vary.

### **Essay Prompts**

**The prompts for the 2016-18 application years are:**

- Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
- Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
- Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
- What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
- Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.