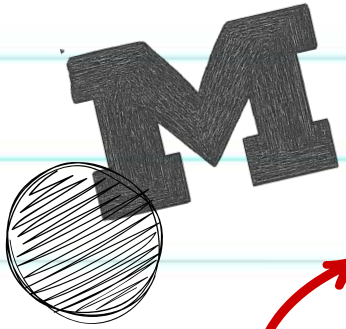
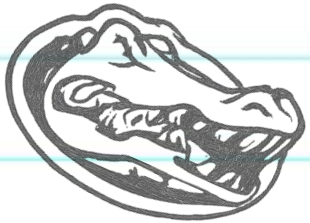
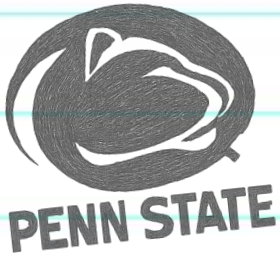




COLLEGE ESSAY BOOTCAMP

Presented by Sheli Thoss, Lisa Thyer, Katy Przybylski, and Chris Wendelin



INTRODUCTION

Who We Are

Personal Introductions:

- Katy Przybylski
- Sheli Thoss
- Lisa Thyer
- Chris Wendelin

School Demographics

- Amos Alonzo Stagg High School
- 36% Low SES (Title 1 School)
- 14.1% English Learners

VIDEO OVERVIEW

PROGRAM HISTORY & EXIGENCE

Discovery of the Need:

- Importance of Essay in college acceptance
- First Generation College Students
- Where else is this done?

Spring 2024:

Initial Idea

Proposal/Funding

How you can get started:

PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Fall 2024:

- Program Launch
- Program Structure
- Initial Concept (instruction & one-on-one)
- Session Overview

Summer 2025:

- Advertisement/Promotion of Program
- Virtual Teaching Sessions
- In-Person Sessions

Fall Structure:

- Two Nights a Week
- Session Overview

SUMMER SESSION TOPICS

- WEEK 1: Understanding the Process and What Colleges Want
- WEEK 2: Brainstorming Topics
- WEEK 3: Essay Organization and Structure
- WEEK 4: Draft #1
- WEEK 5: Revision
- WEEK 6: Editing to a Final Draft

WHAT WORKED: TIPS & STRATEGIES

- Having a space that is flexible
- Meeting kids where they are at
- Keeping a “queue”
- Space and activities for students not actively editing
- Anticipate based on due dates (Nov. 1st)

CLASSROOM APPLICATION:

- AP Portfolio
- Personal Writing Unit (COM-101)
- Writing Conferences

PERSONAL STATEMENT TIPS

College essays go beyond good writing.
We are not only editing college essays, we are helping students develop their ideas into essays that will enhance their college applications.

Here are a few characteristics that colleges look for:

- Values
- Vulnerability
- Resilience
- Insight / Ah-ha Moments
- Writing Craft