

SOLON HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE ESSAY WORKSHOPS

SHS college essay advisors Susan Elliott Blashka and Lisa Chiu and SMS English teacher Sarah Gellott will offer the popular summer college essay workshops for current juniors. Sponsored by Solon Academic Boosters, these workshops raise funds for scholarships for graduating seniors.

MAIN ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP

Students who stand out in the college application process submit essays that show who they are and what's important to them beyond their GPAs and test scores. Whether students are applying through the Common Application, the Coalition Application, or a school-specific application, the instructors will guide them through the entire essay creation process, from brainstorming to editing. The four workshop days (three as a group in person at Solon High School and one as an individual meeting over Zoom) include instruction, group discussion, in-session writing, and personalized feedback. The workshop also includes two Google Docs reviews between meetings.

INTRO TO SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS WORKSHOP

Supplemental essays are extra essays required by some schools, ranging from large public universities to highly selective private colleges. In this one-day group workshop, held in person at Solon High School, students will learn how to tackle the common varieties of supplemental essay prompts.

TOP THREE REASONS TO SIGN UP:

1. **Planning is key!** Applications can be time consuming. Get a jump start on essays over the summer—while more time is available—before fall brings stress from the increased focus on academics, athletics, music, clubs, work, and volunteering.
2. **Getting expert advice is simply smart.** Picking a good essay topic and addressing it thoroughly and appropriately isn't easy. The workshops provide guidance throughout the whole process to eliminate wasted time and effort.
3. **Past students (even those whose parents made them come) are so glad they attended:**

"100% take it. I came out of it with an essay that I feel confident showing to the toughest schools in the country."

"Made my application process so much easier and less stressful. Literally the best money my parents could have spent!"

"I am not a strong writer, but after completing this workshop, I feel so confident with my work."

"Take this workshop! If you think your college essay is already good, this workshop will make it 10 times better."

Register online: <https://www.solonacademicboosters.com/onlinestore/>

SHS Academic Boosters College Essay Summer Workshops: What to Expect

Main Essay Writing Workshop

Day #1

2.5-hour class at Solon High School (in person)

This session is all about digging deep to brainstorm an essay topic that is uniquely you. It will include a mix of instruction, small-group discussions, and individual work.

Day #2

2.5-hour class at Solon High School (in person)

During this workshop, we'll dive into the essential parts of an effective college essay. If you use your writing time well, by the end of the class you'll have a good start on your first draft. After this session, Ms. Blashka, Mrs. Chiu, or Mrs. Gellott will review via Google Docs what you have written so far in preparation for Day #3.

Day #3

2.5-hour class at Solon High School (in person)

A good portion of this class will be a work session, as you take the instructors' feedback into consideration and continue to write your essay. The instructors will be available the entire session for help and will also meet individually with each of you to discuss your progress. After the class, they'll review your revised essay draft again via Google Docs and provide more feedback.

Day #4

One-on-one conference with workshop instructor (via Zoom)

Get personalized guidance in an individual meeting with one of the instructors over Zoom. Before this meeting, you will take the instructors' most recent written feedback and revise your essay to as close to a final draft as possible. You'll have your choice of several meeting dates and times to give you the flexibility to finish these revisions. If you need to do additional work after this meeting, Ms. Blashka and Mrs. Chiu will be available to help you at the high school in the fall.

Intro to Supplemental Essays Workshop

This single-session workshop will prepare you for the extra essays that many schools require. During the two hours, you'll explore common supplemental prompts and example essays, learn how to organize your prompts by topic so you can work more effectively and efficiently, and research schools so you can answer why you'd like to attend. After the session, you'll have the tools you need to get started on writing your drafts. Ms. Blashka and Mrs. Chiu will also be available at school in the fall for feedback and editing.

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Main Essay Writing Workshop			
Session	Instructor(s)*	Dates	Times
1	Ms. Blashka and Mrs. Chiu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, May 19 • Wednesday, May 22 • Tuesday, May 28 • Individually scheduled date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-8:30 p.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • Zoom
2	Ms. Blashka and Mrs. Gellott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, June 5 • Sunday, June 9 • Wednesday, June 12 • Individually scheduled date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-8:30 p.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • Zoom
3	Ms. Blashka and Mrs. Gellott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, June 22 • Wednesday, June 26 • Sunday, June 30 • Individually scheduled date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30-11 a.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • Zoom
4	Ms. Blashka and Mrs. Gellott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, July 10 • Saturday, July 13 • Tuesday, July 16 • Individually scheduled date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-8:30 p.m. • 8:30-11 a.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • Zoom
5	Ms. Blashka and Mrs. Chiu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, July 30 • Sunday, August 4 • Wednesday, August 7 • Individually scheduled date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-8:30 p.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • 6-8:30 p.m. • Zoom
Intro to Supplemental Essays Workshop			
Session	Instructor*	Dates	Times
1	Ms. Blashka	• Saturday, August 3	• 9-11 a.m
2	Ms. Blashka	• Sunday, August 11	• 6-8 p.m.

*Instructors are subject to change

Register online: <https://www.solonacademicboosters.com/onlinestore/>

REGISTRATION DETAILS FOR COLLEGE ESSAY WORKSHOPS

- Registration dates:
 - Early registration for Solon Academic Boosters members begins **Monday, April 8.**
 - Open registration for all current SHS juniors begins **Thursday, April 11.**
- Fees:
 - Main Essay Writing Workshop: \$260
 - Main Essay Writing Workshop and Supplemental Essays Workshop: \$310
- A limited number of need-based scholarships are available for the workshops; inquire with your student's guidance counselor.
- A minimum enrollment number must be met to hold each workshop. A workshop enrollment will close once the maximum number of students is reached.
- No refunds. A student may switch to another workshop if space is available.
- Individual meetings for Day #4 of the Main Essay Writing Workshop will be held via Zoom. Written feedback between workshops will be provided through Google Docs.
- Register online:
<https://www.solonacademicboosters.com/onlinestore/>
- For more information, visit:
<https://www.solonacademicboosters.com/common-app-essay-workshop-for-juniors/>
- Questions? Contact:
solonacademicboosters@hotmail.com

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