

Name _____ Period _____

Initial Brainstorming Worksheet: Possible College/Personal Essay Topics

One of the best methods of brainstorming is to begin a large list of potential topics and slowly let the best rise to the top. In order to generate a “laundry list” of important people, events, accomplishments and activities in your life, fill/complete the worksheet below. Remember this worksheet is merely a brief list of notes for you to use as you begin the process.

1. If you were writing your autobiography right now, what would be five events or things that would have to be included? Try to list these events/things in chronological order.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2. Ask a friend and family member to pick three adjectives or personality traits that characterize/describe you.

Family Member

Friend

You

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. List five accomplishments that you have made over the past four years (since 9th grade). Do not limit yourself to accomplishments for which you have been formally recognized. Some times, the most interesting essays are often based on accomplishments that may seem insignificant at the time, but crucial when placed in the context of your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

4. List three things which you consider yourself very knowledgeable.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

5. What are three of your most important extracurricular activities and/or hobbies that you participate in?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

6. List three people whom you respect and admire. They can be real, fictional, dead or alive.

1.

2.

3.

7. What is your favorite book? Why?

8. What is your favorite movie? Why?

9. Who is your favorite band or singer? Why?

10. Who is your favorite teacher? Why?

12. List two times in your life when you had fantastic/memorable success.

1.

2.

13. List two times in your life when you failed miserably.

1.

2.

14. Ask your parents (guardian) for three events in your life that they will always remember.

1.

2.

3.

15. List three of your favorite things and/or places to visit.

1.

2.

3.