

Rappahannock Scholars

2018 - 2019 Essay Contest



Submit your essay to win great prizes!

Essays must

- be 300-600 words
- be typed and double spaced
- include a title
- include student name, school, and grade

Submit entries by January 31, 2019 to Gayle Mitchell at gbran899@umw.edu.

Essays will be judged on the following criteria:

- Adherence to contest guidelines
- Writing that is clear and coherent
- Writer addresses the topic or answers the question

Good luck!

The Rappahannock Scholars Program at the University of Mary Washington invites ALL STUDENTS from King and Queen, Essex, Lancaster, Northumberland, Rappahannock, and Washington & Lee High Schools to enter the *Rappahannock Scholars 2018 - 2019 Essay Contest*. The TOP 3 entries will be awarded prizes.

The questions come from the 2018 Common Application. Choose one of the essay topics below.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their college application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.