You have just read a collection of essays from a wonderful writer with a strong command of the English language. Now you will be writing your own essay. Consider what you noted about Didion’s prose (whether it was word choice, sentence structure, figurative language, or allusions). In what ways can you use those techniques in your own essay?

A college essay is a crucial part of the application process and one we will spend time on when you return to school. The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores?

The prompts below are the ‘23/’24 prompts from Common App.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then 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. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
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.

Choose ONE of the options and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Unlike other essays with word count expectations, 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. However, the application will not accept a response shorter than 250 words.

Please take this seriously as it will be very helpful to you in your application process. If you need help or feedback, you can reach out to either Mr. Young or myself.

This assignment will be due to Turn It In when we return in August.