

7 Steps to ace the Common App

1. Get to know the Common App ☐



The sooner you create an account and start working, the better off you'll be.

2. Set up a system ☐



Start strong by building a plan. Create a timeline and set deadlines for yourself.

3. Activate your achievements ☐



Use "SMART" details (Specific Measurable Actions with Results over Time).

4. Personalize your essays ☐



Colleges look for: personal stories, authentic voice, strong writing, and how you serve others.

5. Complete the factual sections first ☐

Pull together your personal information. Give yourself plenty of time to fact-gather.



6. Connect with each college ☐

Research colleges and use the Story2 EssayBuilder™ to tell stories that connect with each one.



7. Address Special Situations ☐

In your additional information essay, if needed, share your story that's not included elsewhere.



Bonus



Get transcripts and teacher recommendations

Talk with teachers and college counselors about your plans, ask their advice, as give them links (or forms) for each recommendation.



Want more tips?

Check out the Story2 [Ultimate Guide to the Common App](#) or visit our [Free Resources](#) page

Need essay help?

[We've got you covered!](#)