

Brophy College Preparatory

Into the Wild 12th Grade Summer Essay Assignment



Note to incoming 12th graders:

This multi-paragraph essay is due either in your *AP English IV* class or in your *Hero's Journey* class the first week of school. Its spirit is rooted in Krakauer's *Into the Wild*, but it also correlates almost exactly with the personal essay which colleges and universities want you to create as part of your application this year. Writing it is a way to get to know yourself, as well as a way to help others get to know you.

In addition to submitting this to your English teacher for feedback, you should also submit a copy to your college counselor upon return to school. Not only do your English teacher and college counselor want to get to know you and your writing abilities, but the colleges and universities to which you apply also want to get to know you, your abilities, and whether or not you and the school are a good match.

Thus, on a variety of levels, you should take the essay assignment most seriously.

Essay Assignment: Personal Statement

You have read Krakauer's *Into the Wild* and have witnessed in Chris McCandless a young man setting out on a journey to find himself and the road which he is meant to walk. On this road Chris encounters a number of people, some who ultimately become most important to him. Consider the book as a backdrop for your own life's story. What road have you walked to get where you are? What does the road ahead look like? Who are the significant people you've met along the way? These are some questions to ponder.

You are then to select **one** of the below prompts and write a thoughtful, grammatically correct, multi-paragraph essay in response to it. Your essay should be at least 500 words in length, but may be more. The essay is due typed, titled, and double-spaced the first week of school.

1. *Obviously Chris' journey becomes a crucial aspect of his life. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.*
2. *Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.*
3. *Describe a character in fiction, historical figure, or creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and describe that influence. (could be Chris McCandless, could be someone or something altogether different)*
4. *Chris is obviously a unique young man with a unique calling. In considering a university or college setting, a range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college or university community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.*