## **TOPIC GENERATOR for College Application Essay**Cathy Colglazier -- cccolglazier@gmail.com

| 1. What will a college know from just your application that is important? What will stand out as particular good or interesting? What might make them pause/ask questions?   |
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| 2. What kind of student will you look like to a college from just your transcript? Any blemishes? Any gold stars?  |
| 3. How favorably will your SAT/ACT/AP/IB test scores be received by a college? Are there any issues with these scores? (i.e. Do the scores match up with your grades, for example? Is the verbal much lower/higher than your math? Does your writing score compare to your humanities grades?) |
| 4. Who is doing your recommendations? What details about your high school behavior will each highlight about you? What character traits will they put in the spotlight?  |

| 5. List 3-5 adjectives that describe you – and be sure each is different from the other: |
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| 1.   |
| 2.   |
| 3.   |
| 4.   |
| 5.   |
| Go back now and list stories you could write that would show each of the above traits.   |
| 6. Now you can begin to choose some topics. Answer these questions initially:            |

- - Which of the blemishes need explaining?
  - Which of the pieces of good information need more depth for full appreciation or understanding?
  - Which of the characteristics you listed have the best stories that would both describe the person you are and engage the reader.
  - Which stories are you excited to tell?
  - Which of the characteristics are not obvious anywhere else in your application?