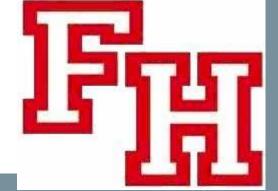
### How are you feeling?







## 1)Essays = \$\$ 2)Financial Aid





# Describe the first time you rode a bicycle





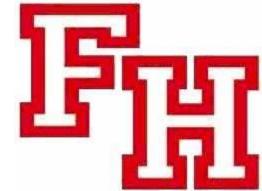
# Why do many scholarships require an essay?





- 1. 'Humanizes' you
- 2. Creative opportunity
- 3. Sense of writing ability
- 4. Demonstrates interest
- 5. Increases your marketability





#### Essay vs. Personal Statement

Essay = typically longer, narrative

Personal statement = shorter, more focused





#### **Topics**

- 1. Have a friend write a letter about you.
- 2. Why do you deserve this scholarship?
- 3. What are you most passionate about right now?
- 4. What are your future plans and career goals?





# What makes a compelling essay?





Better Topics	Topics to Potentially Avoid
Passion for your intended major	Sports Injuries
Family	Another Person
A challenge you faced or when your beliefs were challenged	Something that didn't happen to you, or you don't care about
Passion for a hobby, activity, or cause	Why I want to go to your school (unless that is the prompt)
A memorable meal or event	Something you think we want to hear
Creative Forms (Example: Haiku)	Covid-19?





#### Top Essay Tips

- 1. Be specific
- 2. Write YOUR viewpoint
- 3. Write how you speak
- 4. You're the star
- 5. Tell a story
- 6. Recycle and Reuse





# Financial Aid

# What costs does Financial Aid cover?

#### What does Financial Aid cover?

Tuition	Meal Plan
Fees	Supplies
Books	Transportation
Study Abroad	Certification Fees
Room	Personal expenses

## FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

#### FAFSA vs CSS Profile

#### **FAFSA**

Free report that most colleges use to determine financial aid award

#### **CSS Profile**

Application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award Institutional (their own) aid.

\$25

# Who needs to complete the FAFSA?

Anyone attending college or trade school who expects to receive financial support.\*

\* support not guaranteed

#### The FAFSA does not

- Give you money to go to college/trade school
- Guarantee you will get funding
- Ignore deadlines

#### The FAFSA does

- Allow you to share financial information with colleges of your choice
- Allow you to produce a Student Aid Index (SAI) to share with scholarships providers
- Determine Pell Grant eligibility

#### !!! IMPORTANT !!!

- Every college/trade program has a different method for reviewing FAFSA and determining financial aid.
- Not all schools prioritize NEED based aid (not all schools meet full demonstrated need)

#### !!! IMPORTANT !!!

- Each school will produce a financial aid package.
- TIMELINE: ISIRs will be available to colleges mid-March
- SAI does not consider # siblings in college

#### FAFSA UPDATES

- Some people were not able to sign FAFSA
- Some SAIs were not able to be calculated
- Fed government forgot about inflation
- Processing beginning slowly
- Information to colleges mid-March

#### Student Aid Index (SAI)

- Cost of attendance SAI = financial need
- -1500 to 99,999 Range
- Will allow colleges/schools to create your financial aid award

#### COLLEGE \$\$

What are the differences?

Grants Vs.
Loans

#### Identifying terms - college-bound \$\$

#### **GRANTS**

Money that you RECEIVE from the federal or state government, based on financial need that DOFS NOT have to be repaid.

#### LOANS

Money that you BORROW with INTEREST that needs to be repaid.

#### **Types of Grants**

Pell Grant	\$7,895
GA Grant	\$20,700*
EA Grant	\$3,000
Institutional Grant	varies
SEOG	\$4,000

## Grants Money you don't have to pay back

#### **Types of Loans**

Direct Subsidized Loans	5.5%
Direct Unsubsidized Loans	5.5%
Direct PLUS loans	8.05%
Private Loans	6.37+%

Loan
Interest Rates
Money you
have to pay
back

#### Federal Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized Loans (\$5,500-12,500)

#### Subsidized

Interest is paid by the Education Department when you are enrolled at least half time in college.

#### Unsubsidized

Interest begins accruing as soon as the loan is dispersed.

#### **Types of Scholarships**

Local

Academic/Tuition

Special Interest

**Athletic** 

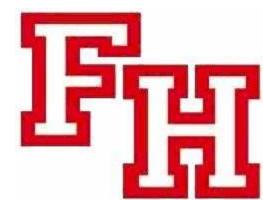
Employer

#### Scholarships

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

- File FAFSA
- Create MDCAPS account
- Work on local scholarships
- Negotiate college cost





#### Where to find scholarships?

Scholarship.com

ScholorshipOwl (app)

RaiseMe (app)

Scolly (app)

Check the College Department of your intended major

Naviance.com

Corporate Offices/ Credit Unions

Guidance Office

Local elected officials

Schools in other counties

Fastweb.com





#### Mr. Webb

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