

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated® Presents

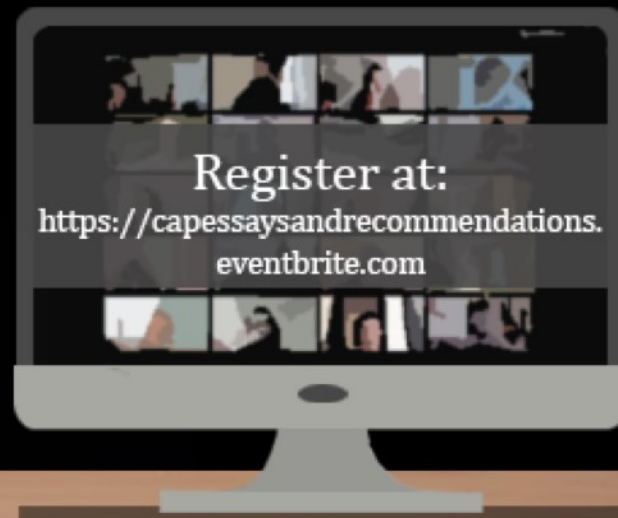


# College Admissions Process

WRITING ESSAYS AND  
GETTING RECOMMENDATION LETTERS  
*for high school juniors and seniors*

THURSDAY

AUGUST 2020  
7:00PM-8:30PM



Register at:  
<https://capessaysandrecommendations.eventbrite.com>

Writing Tips  
and  
Techniques

Crafting a  
stellar  
essay

Creating a  
Scholar  
profile

Recommendation  
Letters



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®  
Collaborating Chapters:

Gamma Delta Omega (Portsmouth, VA)

Lambda Omega (Newport News, VA)

Gamma Gamma Omega (Asheville, NC)

Lambda Omega Omega (Monmouth & Ocean Counties, NJ)

Psi Psi Omega (Stafford & Fauquier Counties, VA)



## *Welcome & Objectives*



- ❖ Welcome parents and high school students.
- ❖ Thank you for joining the College Admissions Process (#CAP<sup>SM</sup>) – Writing Essays and Getting Recommendation Letters webinar.
- ❖ This webinar will be recorded for future use.

The webinar objectives are to:

- ❖ Equip scholars with tools to navigate the college admission process.
- ❖ Share essay writing and letters of recommendation strategies.

# *Instructions*

- ❖ All lines will be muted until the Q&A at the end of the webinar.
- ❖ Use the chat function to:
  - ❖ Post comments or questions.
  - ❖ Get assistance with technical issues.
- ❖ Questions will be shared during Q&A session.
- ❖ Have paper and a pen/pencil handy.



# *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*



- ❖ International Greek-letter non-profit service organization.
- ❖ Founded on January 15, 1908 on the campus of Howard University.
- ❖ Nearly 300,000 members world-wide.
- ❖ Program theme: *Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service.*
- ❖ Program Target 1: HBCU for Life and Signature Program #CAP<sup>SM</sup>
- ❖ Promote HBCUs.
- ❖ Assist high school students through the college admissions process.

## *Participating Sorority Chapters (5)*

- ❖ Gamma Delta Omega (Portsmouth, VA)
  - Mrs. Fannie Bullock
  - Mrs. Liquita James
- ❖ Gamma Gamma Omega (Asheville, NC)
  - Dr. Kenesha Smith
  - Mrs. Terry Bellamy
- ❖ Lambda Omega (Newport News, VA)
  - Mrs. Karen Bazemore-Person
- ❖ Lambda Omega Omega (Monmouth & Ocean Counties, NJ)
  - Dr. Sandra Jordan
- ❖ Psi Psi Omega (Stafford and Fauquier Counties, VA)
  - Dr. Christie Murray
  - Ms. Casandra Chamblis





# College Admissions Process

## APPLYING TO COLLEGES

*Strategies for High  
School Seniors  
I Wish Someone Had Told Me*



**Register at:**

<https://capapplyingtocolleges.eventbrite.com>

## GENERAL COLLEGE AND HBCU INFORMATION

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# *Agenda*

- ❖ Speaker Introductions
- ❖ Topics Covered:
  - ❖ Preparing for College
  - ❖ Types of Essays and Letters of Recommendation
  - ❖ Writing Essays
  - ❖ Getting Letters of Recommendation
  - ❖ Developing a Scholar Profile
  - ❖ Using Your Time Wisely
- ❖ Closing/Wrap-up (Future Webinars)
- ❖ Question & Answer

# *Speaker Introduction*

**Webinars Based on the “I Wish Someone Had Told Me” Series:**



**Dr. Christie Murray**

*Author, National Speaker*

*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Member*

*Psi Psi Omega Chapter*



# Speaker Introductions

*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Members*



**Dr. Christie Murray**



**Dr. Kenesha Smith**

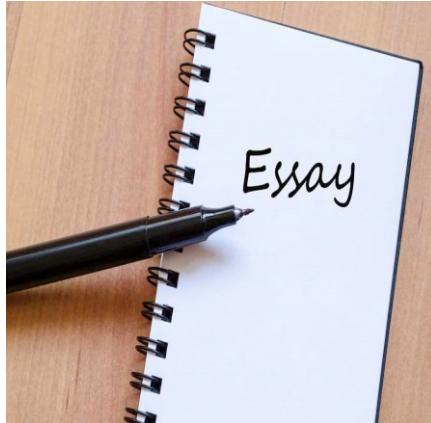
# *College Planning Strategies* To Get Accepted...



# *College Funding Strategies* **To Graduate Debt-free!**



# Preparing for College



- ❖ Preparing for college may require scholars to:
  - ❖ Write essays
  - ❖ Obtain letters of recommendation
- ❖ Both essays and letters of recommendation can:
  - ❖ Provide more insight into who you are
  - ❖ Showcase yourself and differentiate you from others
  - ❖ Be an important decision factors for selection/award

# Essays

## Letters of Recommendations

*Commonly Requested for...*

**College  
Admissions**

- Why you are a good candidate for admissions?

**Scholarships**

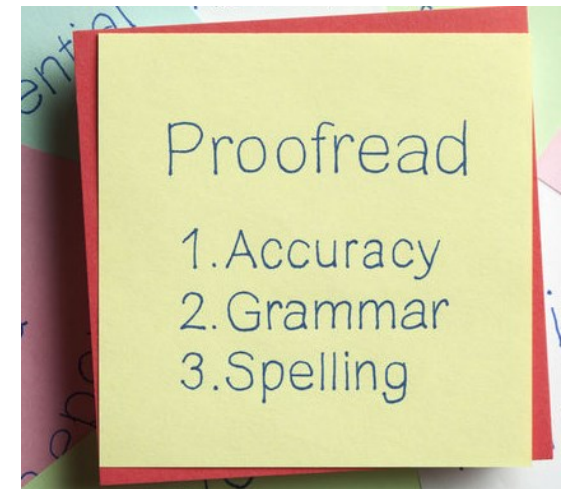
- Why you should be awarded a scholarship?



# Writing Essays

## *General Guidance*

- ❖ Draft essays early and prepare to revise multiple times.
- ❖ Find trusted individuals to proofread and critique your writing (teacher?).
- ❖ Use free online proofreading resources (i.e. Grammarly).
- ❖ Follow directions:
  - ❖ Type it/handwrite.
  - ❖ Max/min word count.
  - ❖ Adhere to submission deadlines.
  - ❖ Address the specific essay topic or question.
- ❖ Write on various topics and save them all.
- ❖ Save and re-use content for multiple applications.



# Writing Essays



- ❖ Be yourself and share about a personal experience.
- ❖ Reflect on who you are: strengths, talents, interests.
- ❖ Demonstrate knowledge of college/entity (facts/statistics).
- ❖ Share how you will make a difference.
- ❖ Ask for help (get a mentor).
- ❖ Brainstorm to generate ideas and be creative.
  - ❖ Can save you time.
  - ❖ Write down every idea/thought.
  - ❖ Highlight useful ideas that support the essay topic.

# Writing Essays

## *Sections of an Essay*

- ❖ Develop a brief outline to organize your thoughts into manageable sections.
  - ❖ Introduction
  - ❖ Body
  - ❖ Conclusion
- ❖ **Introduction** paragraph should:
  - ❖ Include a compelling hook (Interesting Question, Strong Statement/Declaration, Fact/Statistic, Metaphor, Story, Description, Quotation)
  - ❖ Grab and keep the reader's attention.
  - ❖ Contain a thesis statement with three supporting points you want to make in the essay.
  - ❖ Answer the essay question/topic through these three supporting points.

# Writing Essays

## *Sections of an Essay*

- ❖ Body paragraphs should:
  - ❖ Develop a paragraph for each of the three supporting points.
  - ❖ Paragraph 1: Start with your *strongest* supporting point.
  - ❖ Includes facts and other supporting details that expand on major themes.
  - ❖ Share personal reflections in each paragraph.
- ❖ Conclusion paragraph should:
  - ❖ Restate your compelling hook and thesis statement.
  - ❖ Concisely summarize each of the three supporting points.
  - ❖ Share any important information.
  - ❖ Leave the reader with a lasting thought related to the essay theme.

# Writing Essays

## *Essay Themes*

- ❖ You may pick a topic or instructed to write on a particular topic.
- ❖ Ten common essay themes include *(what are some other themes?)*:

Career/Major	Contribution
Challenges	Creativity
Change	Financial need
Character	Leadership
Community Service	Personal Statement



# Writing Essays (*Conclusion*)



- ❖ Don't be afraid to apply for scholarships with essays!
- ❖ You won't fear essay writing when you are prepared.
- ❖ Essays offer you OPPORTUNITY to shine.
- ❖ When the competition is close, what will be the difference maker?

# Getting Letters of Recommendation

## *General Guidance*

- Request letters of recommendation for:
  - College applications
  - Scholarship applications
- Who should you ask for letters?
  - Teachers (establish a rapport during the school year)
  - School Counselors
  - Coaches
  - Employers
  - Community Leaders
- Tailor your ask for the type of college/scholarship application.
- Request multiple copies and ask for generic letters that can be reused.
- Make a list of recommenders that you trust and who will provide a positive reference but keep an ongoing list.



# Getting Letters of Recommendation

## *General Guidance*

- Provide recommenders with submission instructions.
  - Mail (provide stamped envelope)
  - Send electronically
  - Both
- Set recommenders deadlines 1-2 weeks before your deadline.
- Follow-up to make sure letters are received by the deadline.
- Offer a pre-drafted letter of recommendation for them to tailor.
- Save and re-use content for multiple applications.
- Provide a Scholar Profile with your recommendation request.



# Sample Scholar Profile



**John Doe**  
12345 College Bound Drive  
City, State Zip Code  
Home: (123) 456-789; Mobile: (123) 911-4111  
Email: john.doe@yahoo.com

**Objective:** To attend XX university and obtain a degree in XX.

**Education:** **High School:** XX High School, City, State (Graduation: 06/13/20XX)  
**Current GPA:** 3.6; Rank: 29/283  
**ACT Scores:** Composite: 24; English (24); Math (30); Reading (21); Science (20)  
**College Plan:** Hampton University (Accepted on 1/20/20XX)  
**Enrollment Date:** Fall 2018  
**Intended Degree/Major:** Bachelor of XX in XX

**Honors and Awards:**

- Honor Roll, (20XX - Present)
- National Honor Society Induction, 20XX
- Top Alternate Current/Direct Current Student, (20XX-20XX)

**Employment Experience:**

- Cashier, McDonalds, City, VA (20XX-20XX)
- Walmart Cashier, City, VA (20XX)

**Student Organizations/Extracurricular Activities:**

- Student Government Association Class Representative, (20XX-Present)
- National Honor Society, (20XX-Present)
- Future Business Leaders of America Member, (20XX-20XX)

**Community Service Activities:**

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Adopt a Highway Project, (20XX)
- Volunteered at Galleria Mall on Summer Family Nights, (20XX)
- Volunteered at the XX Community Center, (20XX)

**Relevant Courses:**

- Algebra II
- Graphics Design I
- Oceanography

**Interests/Hobbies:**

- Cooking
- Reading

# *Use Your Time Wisely*

## Timeline (11-12th Grade)

- ☐ Narrow down college majors or fields of study
- ☐ Research college requirements (*essay or letters of recommendation?*)
- ☐ Build your Scholar Profile
- ☐ Stay involved in activities (sports, clubs, community)
- ☐ Identify who can write letters of recommendations
- ☐ Research and **apply** for scholarships



# *Use Your Time Wisely*

## Timeline (12th Grade)

- ☐ Select a college major or field of study
- ☐ Select and apply to your top colleges
- ☐ Write essays
- ☐ Obtain letters of recommendation
- ☐ Update your Scholar Profile
- ☐ Apply for scholarships and track results



# *Summary*

- ❖ Start early:
  - ❖ Writing essays
  - ❖ Identifying who can write letters of recommendation.
- ❖ Do your college and scholarship research to understand requirements.
- ❖ Develop a Scholar Profile and differentiate yourself.
- ❖ Highlight your plans to make a difference or contribute to society.
- ❖ Don't waste people's time (be responsive).
- ❖ Create a file for your documents and save your essays.
- ❖ Say thank you to those who help you.

*What are your takeaways?*

# Closing/Wrap up



# Upcoming Webinars

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# *Your Feedback Is Important to Us*

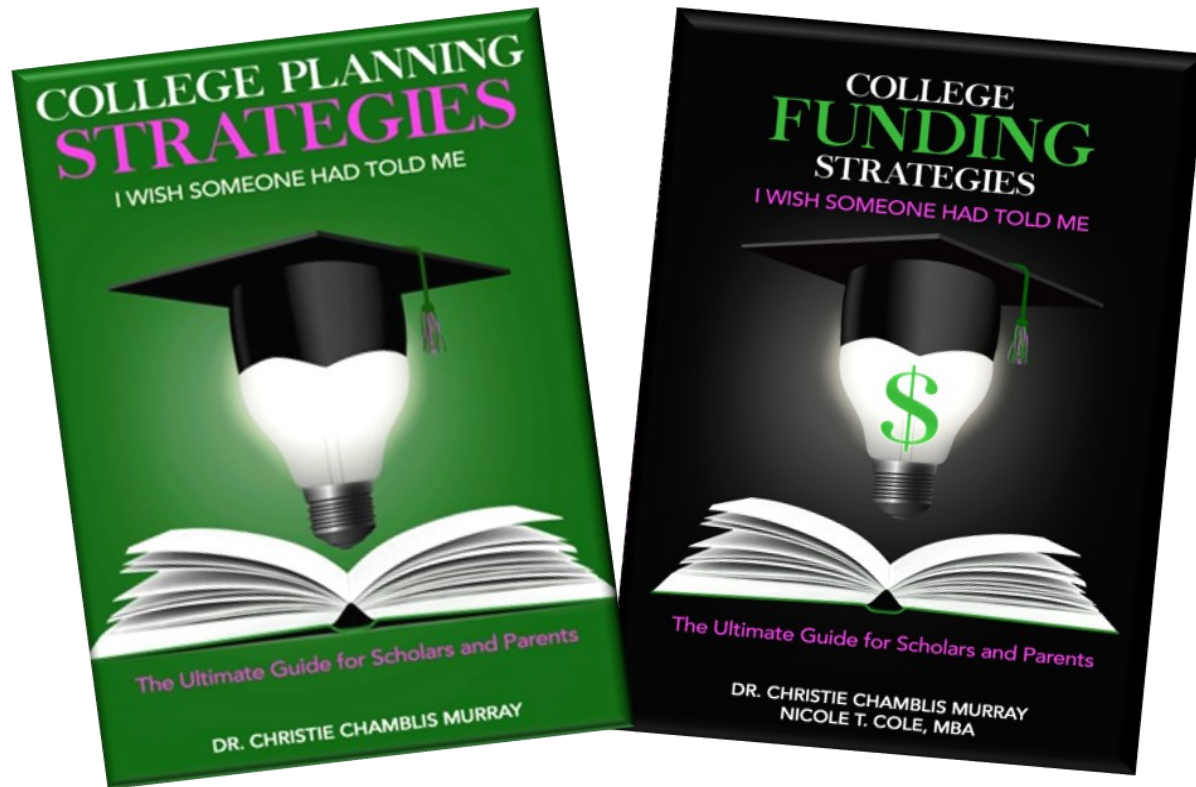
## **Complete the Evaluation**

Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z6BPGQ9>

- ❖ Share your thoughts so we can make improvements.
- ❖ Click the link in the chat function.
- ❖ Email will be sent to participants with: the:
  - ❖ Evaluation Survey Monkey link
  - ❖ Student slides
    - ❖ Future webinar dates/registration
    - ❖ Scholarship Link
    - ❖ Useful Links



# *Reference Materials*



Also Available at:  
Website: [www.investNothers.com](http://www.investNothers.com)

## *Useful Links*

- ❖ **Invest N Others LLC:** <https://www.investnothers.com>
- ❖ **Common App:** [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- ❖ **Common Black College App:** <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
- ❖ **Grammarly Proofread Online:** <https://www.grammarly.com/>
- ❖ **Common Essay Mistakes:**  
<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay-grammar-checklist>
- ❖ **Compelling Essay Hooks:**  
<https://www.academicwritingsuccess.com/7-sensational-essay-hooks/>

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Strategies...**  
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# Questions & Answers

*(Share questions in the Chat Room)*

