Common Application Instructions - Getting Started

Go to Common App:
1. Log into your Common App account. If you've not created an account, you'll need to do that
2. Under the "Common App" tab, complete the entire "education" section so that it has a green checkmark (this is necessary since the Common App must know the high school you attend).
3. Go to "My Colleges." If no colleges are listed, go to "College Search" add at least one college to which you'll be applying.

Answers to Common Questions You May Have
- Graduation: May 24, 2020
- Class Rank Reporting: None
- GPA - leave blank. You do not have one at AOF
- GPA scale - 4.0 ● GPA weighting? weighted
- Courses: Use SENIOR YEAR course transcript name Course scheduling system = semester Credits: Full year course earns 1 credit; semester course earns .5 credit.
- Graduating Class Size: 130
- Counselor Ph: (JAC) 860-404-4221; (TR) 860-404-4694; (KB) 860-404-4597; (JM) 860-404-4399; (RW) 860-404-4233.

Reporting Test Scores:
DON'T REPORT YOUR SCORES!
- To be official, test scores must come directly from the testing service.
- Once you submit your common app, you can not change it. That means, if you apply to a school that requires you to submit scores and you report your scores, your application will have the scores on it - even if you apply to a score optional school.
- In addition, if you earn higher scores later in the year, you can't update them once you submit the application to one school.

Use of the "Additional Information" Section
If you finish your application and find something important has not been included somewhere in the application, you can use the "Additional Information" section to provide details. Don't repeat information covered elsewhere. If needed, you can add up to 650 words. Paste the essay as explained

The Common Application 2019-2020 Essay Prompts
The Common Application essay prompts are the same for the 2019-2020 application cycle as they were for 2017-2018. The word limit on the essay will remain at 650.
The goal of the essay is to help all applicants, regardless of background or access to counseling, see themselves and their stories within the context of the prompts. They are designed to invite unencumbered discussions of character and community, identity, and aspiration.

2017-2018 Common Application Essay Prompts
Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

1. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
3. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution. [No change]
4. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
5. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
6. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.