



College Essay Writing Timeline

Stay on Track from Brainstorm to Final Draft with Barakah

Summer Before Senior Year (June–August)

- Brainstorm essay topics (identity, values, challenges, growth).
- Reflect on personal experiences through a faith-based lens: ask yourself how Islam has shaped your choices, leadership, or resilience.
- Start Draft 1 by end of August.

Early Fall (September)

- Revise Draft 1 into Draft 2.
- Ask a teacher, mentor, or counselor for feedback.
- Begin brainstorming supplemental essay topics.
- Set personal deadlines two weeks before official deadlines.

Mid Fall (October)

- Draft 3 of Personal Statement (polished).
- Draft 1 of supplemental essays.
- Revise supplemental essays with feedback.
- Check essay word counts & clarity.

Late Fall (November)

- Final revision of Personal Statement.
- Submit essays for Early Decision / Early Action deadlines.
- For Regular Decision: keep polishing supplemental essays.

Winter (December–January)

- Last check with a mentor/advisor.
- Submit essays for Regular Decision deadlines.
- Save all drafts (you might reuse parts for scholarships).