

## **APPLICANT STATEMENT POSSIBLE PROMPTS/POINTS TO ADDRESS**

During your post-secondary search, you may have discovered a school to which you have decided to apply despite the fact that you fall below what they cite as automatic admission criteria (for example, a particular class rank, grade point average, ACT/SAT score, required high school courses or a combination of these).

So, why should you be admitted if you don't fit that school's profile of typically admitted students? In many cases, you make it easy for a school to deny you admission based on your application if you decide to add nothing over and beyond information they request or require.

Just as letters of recommendation are suggested in situations like this even though the school may not ask for them, it is also appropriate to add an Applicant Statement. Letters of recommendation present an opportunity to have an adult (teacher, advisor, coach, employer, etc) be a voice of support for your admission. An Applicant Statement gives you the opportunity to have a voice in this process, sharing and explaining why you feel you will be successful at their school.

Remember, most admission committees make decisions based simply on what they read in the application. They don't contact you with additional questions or for clarification and, typically, they don't request a personal interview. In essence, the Applicant Statement is your opportunity to write your own letter of recommendation and address any concerns that the required information on the application might raise.

To help you prepare to write this statement, review and complete only those questions you feel most pertinent to your situation. The quality and honesty of information you provide is important so as to be able to help you write the best possible statement.

1. Will I have completed by graduation from H-M the college/university's required college preparatory curriculum (subject requirements)? If yes, how has that prepared me to be successful at your school? If no, why haven't I taken the recommended/required college preparatory courses at Hill-Murray and, more importantly, why will this not negatively impact my ability to be successful at your school?

2. Are my class rank, grade point average, and grades (in other words my academic transcript) an accurate reflection of my ability?

\_\_\_ Yes, why?

\_\_\_ No, why not?

3. What factors (personal, family, social, academic) have contributed to my academic performance, positively or negatively?

4. Does my transcript reflect a steady improvement in academic performance?

5. Is my ACT or SAT score an accurate reflection of my ability? If no, why not?

What subjects have I found most enjoyable in the previous three years? What made them enjoyable for me?

6. What subjects have I found most difficult in the previous three years? Why were they difficult?

7. What do I consider my strong points as a student? Possibly describe (briefly) a project or paper in which I was particularly successful.

8. What evidence can I provide that I have been prepared to learn, think creatively, problem solve (particularly when facing problems in a new context), adapt and succeed?

9. Is there anything on my application which I feel needs clarification? If yes, explain.

10. What can I provide as evidence of high school or community involvement that I will continue to provide at the college/university community level?

11. What evidence can I provide of motivation, maturity, or responsibility?

12. Am I a first-generation college student?

13. Do I have family members (grandparents, parents, siblings, etc.) who are alumni or currently attending the school to which I am applying? Why is this important?

14. What evidence can I provide of having overcome social, economic, or physical barriers to educational achievement?

15. What evidence can I provide that enrollment would enhance the cultural, gender, age, economic, racial, or geographic diversity of the student body?

16. List five words that describe me and explain “why and how” they describe me.

17. What events, circumstances or experiences (for example: moving, cultural differences, accident, family circumstances, death, special opportunities) have had a major impact on your way of thinking, either positively or negatively?

18. What would a H-M teacher/coach/advisor/administrator who knows me well share with an admission committee about me?