

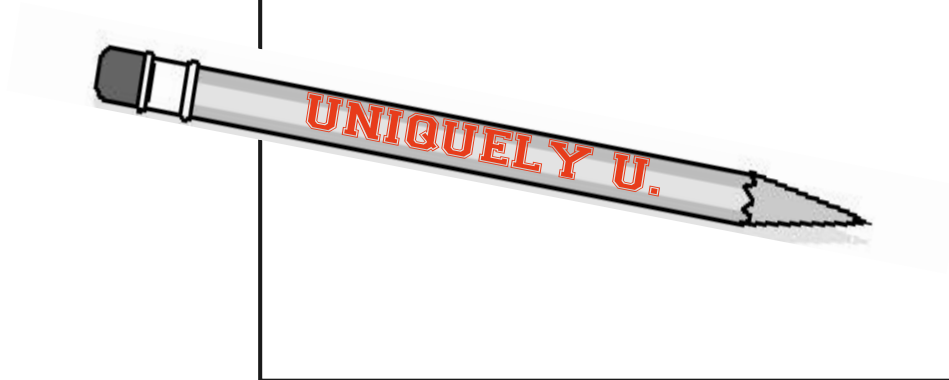


FIND YOUR NARRATIVE; WRITE YOUR FUTURE!

The UU “How To” Slideshow



THE BLANK PAGE



How to get past it...

IN 3 STAGES...

- **COLLECT**
- **CONNECT**
- **CONVEY**

COLLECT ASSIGNMENT 1

WHAT'S IN YOUR ROOM?

- Take smart phone snapshots of everything in your bedroom. Don't forget your walls, shelves & closet
- Draw a rough Floor Plan to anchor everything
- Make a complete inventory of its contents

COLLECT: Freewrite 1

SINGLE OUT 1 ITEM...

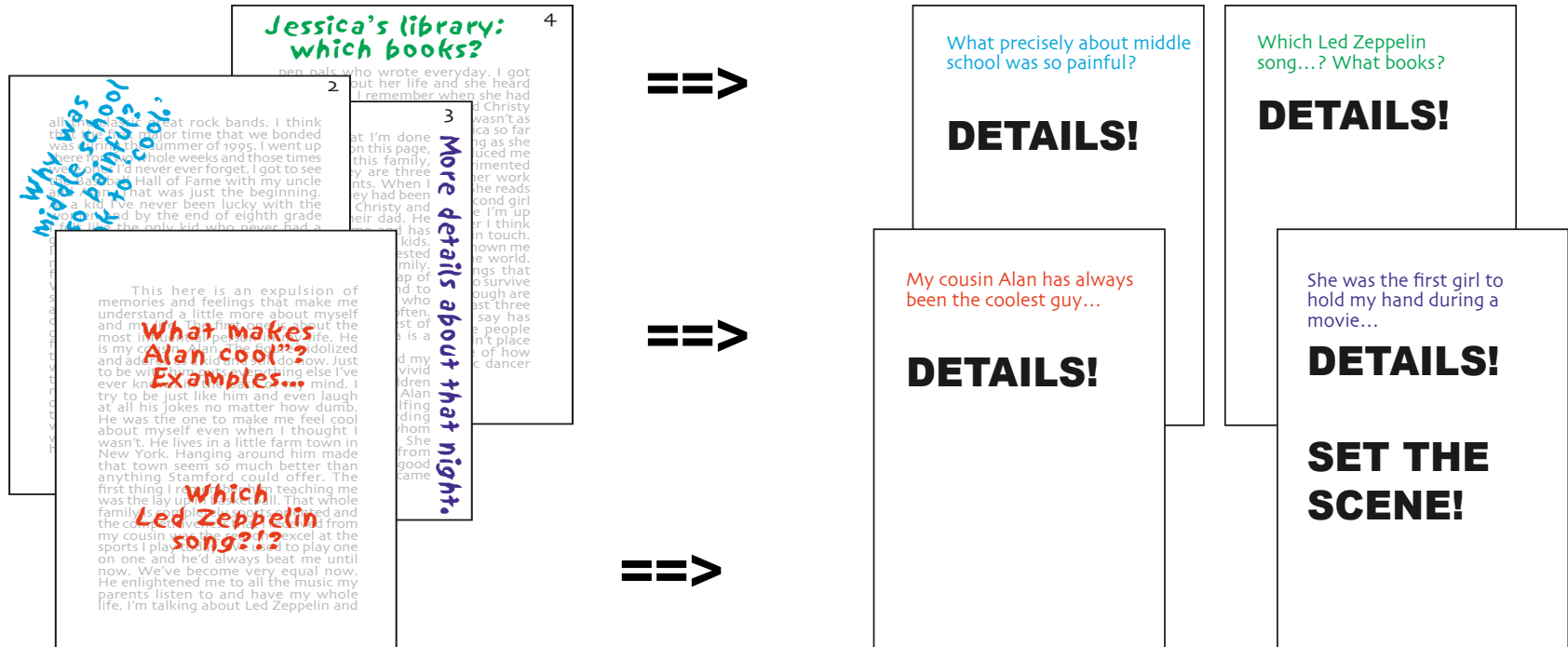
summer of 1995. I went up
there for two whole weeks

an
I'd
The
hin
lay
en
mu
an
tal
an
rod
tod
ev
Jes

The most influential person in my life is my cousin, Alan. He was the one to make me feel cool about myself even when I thought I wasn't. He lives in a little farm town in New York. Hanging around him made that town seem so much better than anything Stamford could offer. I think that the first major time that we bonded was during the

[HOW TO FREEWRITE...]

GO INTO DETAIL! DON'T COUNT WORDS!



NOW TEMPORARILY SET YOUR WORK ASIDE

UNTIL WE'RE READY TO **CONNECT**

COLLECT ASSIGNMENT 2

FAMILY TREE; FRIENDS' CIRCLE

- **Chart your family tree.** Describe each family member including your blended family
- **Take similar stock of your friends,** the people you've *chosen* to be in your support system

COLLECT: Freewrite 2

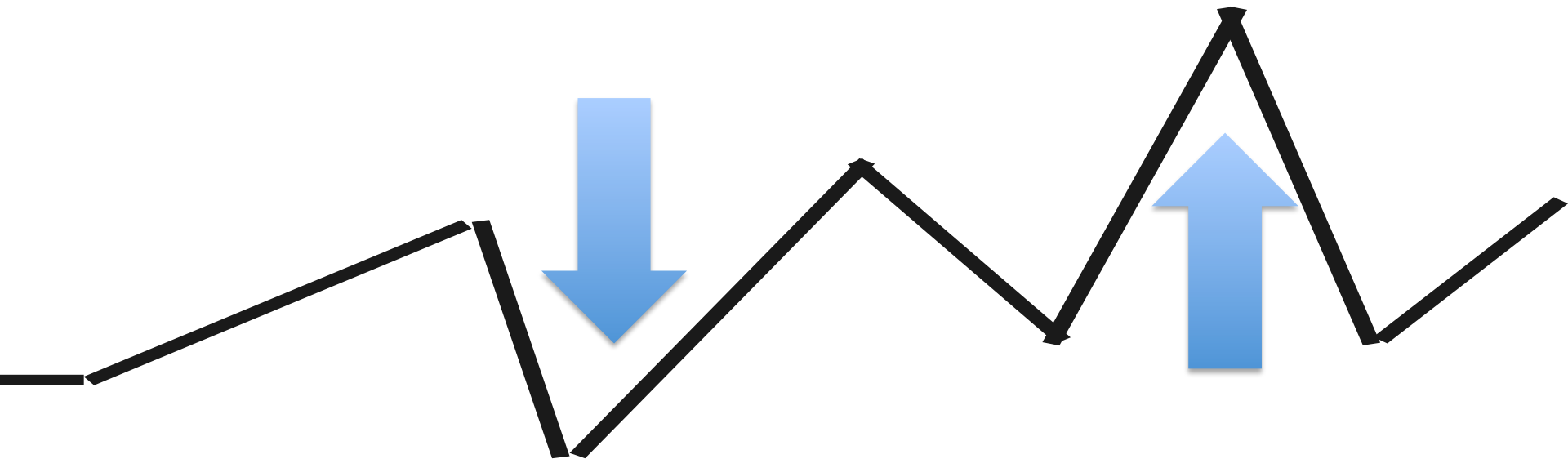
FAMILY TREE / FRIENDS' CIRCLE

- Freewrite about what each of the FRIENDS you've chosen brings to the table; what do you offer in return?

COLLECT ASSIGNMENT 3

PERSONAL TIMELINE

- Graph ten milestones in your life
- Single out your...
 - **a: LOW POINT**
 - **b: HIGH POINT**



COLLECT Freewrites 3 a, b

Describe both your LOW & HIGH POINTS

I felt so bad after middle school and felt empty. My soul seemed as if it had been sucked dry. All of the friends who I thought had been so close since I was born, had proved to be fakes. They talked behind my back and made fun of me for the way I dressed or acted. I came home from school sometimes with tears in my eyes wondering how to be "cool." My weekends were spent doing absolutely nothing. While my friends were partying or watching some other dumb TV show. The one thing I wanted in the world was to be accepted. I wanted to feel the love that only those close to you could give. I also longed for a girlfriend. I guess that just goes along with the feeling of being accepted and loved. I liked one girl for all of middle school and with only two months left, I asked her out. Her name was Michelle. She said yes and when she found out that I was asking her on a date, she canceled, lied, and went out with another guy that I thought was so bad that all I wanted to do was to get a divorce in some way or another.

As soon as I got to high school, I was in Stamford and everything was new. Every

3 a

We picked Jesse and AJ up at their dad's house. It seemed so empty compared to the furniture we had at home. The place, and the luxuries that we have, were well maintained, there was a pool table and a broken pinball machine. There wasn't much food and the bedrooms were small. The other rooms were spacious but empty. The only bright spots of the house were the many books on the bookshelves and the colorful caged birds.

We left to go see 'Clueless' and I found out about the whole family. They gave me stories about their gay father and their parents being divorced. The family wasn't too financially stable. The mom lived in Syracuse. Throughout the week we got together and went swimming at their house. We did everything together. I stayed in the Williams's house so long that any differences that could be witnessed at the beginning of the trip faded away. I

3 b

TEMPORARILY SET YOUR WORK ASIDE
UNTIL WE'RE READY TO **CONNECT**

COLLECT ASSIGNMENT 4

HOW I SPEND MY TIME

- **Create Word Table 1**
 - **Column 1: ACTIVITY:** name, location of each out-of-school pursuit
 - **Column 2: TIME DEVOTED:** hs years of participation; h/w; w/y
 - **Column 3: POSITIONS HELD**
 - **Column 4: RESPONSIBILITIES, CONTRIBUTIONS** – quantify everything!

COLLECT Freewrite 4

MY MOST MEANINGFUL ACTIVITY

- Single out 1 activity from **Table 1**
- Describe the 1st time you realized its importance

My cousin Alan has always been the coolest guy. By that I mean "laid-back." The fact that he was easy-going and carefree made him a magnet to everybody from the big city of Binghamton to the little towns of Owego and NewarkValley. Every time I would go with him to a store or movie theater, he would know somebody there. All of the guys want to be him and all the girls want to be with him.

He was the first person to teach me how to do a lay-up in basketball. Every night, my cousin and I stayed up late playing Ken Griffey Jr. Baseball on his Super Nintendo conversing about each other's life as if we were brothers. Even though some might find that "dorky," the fact that Alan wanted to do it made it cool. He taught me to like Led Zeppelin. When I heard "Stairway to Heaven," it was a flashback to the music my parents listened to. I always felt that I was a little bit uncool. I was the exact opposite of my cousin, especially around girls. I had never had a date and then one night, "Alan-style," I did.

"Do you want to go with me to see a movie tonight with a girl, her brother,

4

SET YOUR WORK ASIDE UNTIL WE'RE READY TO **CONVEY**

COLLECT ASSIGNMENT 5:

- **Create Table 2: MY COLLEGES:**

- Columns:

1. **College Name** – If you visited, when? Names of people you met
2. **Academics** – 1st Year Experience? Freshman seminar? Core curriculum? Analyze your likely major's departmental strengths
3. **Student Life** – What clubs, teams, service opportunities interest you. Offer to start your own!
4. **Study Abroad Programs** in your field
5. **Internship/Career Networking Opportunities**
6. **Undergraduate Research Opportunities**
7. **Other standout features**

COLLECT Freewrite 5

MY INTELLECTUAL PASSION(S)

- Describe your learning style. When did you first realize this?
- Has this discovery pointed you toward a likely major? Or to being undecided? Turn either answer into a strength

It is strange, but I believe that my cousin's house was my heaven. Throughout the week, we got together every afternoon, and Jessica was there—telling me about her favorite poets—especially the strong independent women like Maya Angelou.

Now on the night, here we were again on Alan's couch watching the Children of the Corn, but in my life, I was not afraid. My hand entwined in Jessica's right where it belonged, I realized that loneliness is the cause of fear. Since I was no longer lonely, I would no longer ever feel afraid.

After those two weeks that sense of peace became a part of me." As for Jessica, we still keep in touch. I see her whenever I visit my cousin. When we write, we exchange poetry; hers has already gotten published.

And sometimes I think of how my cousin Alan might define this laid-back, open person I've started to become. "Hey, that's cool," he'd say.

5

HEY! YOU'RE DONE COLLECTING!

We picked Jessica, Christie, and AJ up at their dad's house. The house seemed so empty compared to the one we had. The furniture was old, the rooms were all over the place, and there weren't many luxuries that we have. The pool wasn't well maintained, there was an old pool table and a broken pinball machine. The bedrooms were small. The other rooms such as the family room and kitchen were cluttered but empty. The only bright spots of the house were the many bookshelves and the colorful birds.

I felt so bad after middle school and felt empty. My soul seemed as if it had been torn out. All of the friends who I thought were so close since I was born, had all moved away. I came home from school every day with tears in my eyes wondering how to be "cool." My weekends were spent doing absolutely nothing. While my friends were partying, I was just sitting at home, feeling dumb. I felt like I was the only one who couldn't guess the name of a girl for two months. She found a date, she wanted to go to the Stamford everyth

1

2

3

4

5

We picked Jessica, Christie, and AJ up at their dad's house. The house seemed so empty compared to the one we had. The furniture was old, the rooms were all over the place, and there weren't many luxuries that we have. The pool wasn't well maintained, there was an old pool table and a broken pinball machine. The bedrooms were small. The other rooms such as the family room and kitchen were cluttered but empty. The only bright spots of the house were the many bookshelves and the colorful birds.

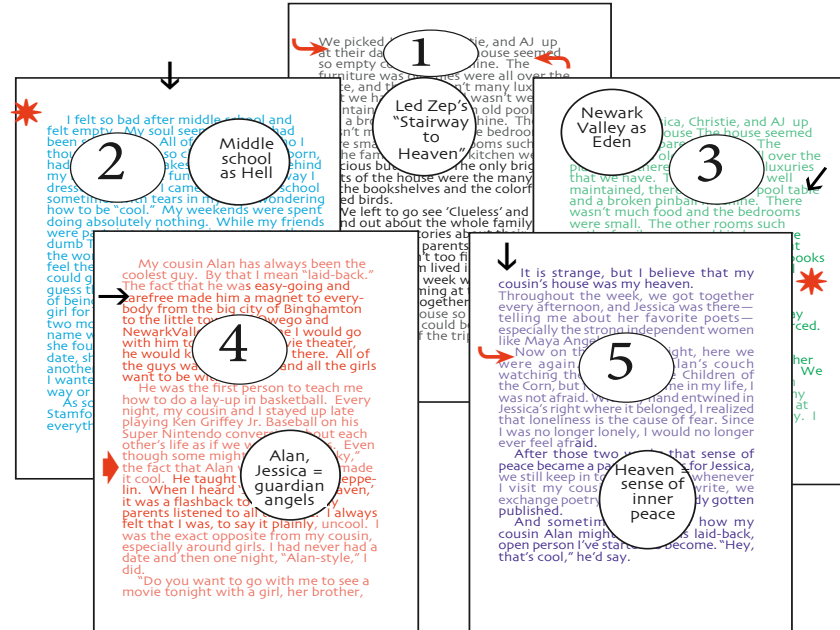
It is strange, but I believe that my cousin's house was my heaven. Throughout the week, we got together every afternoon, and Jessica was there—telling me about her favorite poets—especially the strong independent women like Maya Angelou. Now on the night, here we were again sitting on Alan's couch watching the movie Children of the Corn, but in my life, I was not afraid. My hand entwined in Jessica's right where it belonged, I realized that loneliness is the cause of fear. Since I was no longer lonely, I would no longer ever feel afraid. After those two weeks that sense of peace became a part of me, "As for Jessica, we still keep in touch. I see her whenever I visit my cousin. When we write, we exchange poetry; hers has already gotten published. And sometimes I think of how my cousin Alan might define this laid-back, open person I've started to become. "Hey, that's cool," he'd say.

My cousin Alan has always been the coolest guy. By that I mean "laid-back." The fact that he was easy-going and carefree made him a magnet to everybody from the big city of Binghamton to the little town ofwego and NewarkValley. I would go with him to the theater, and all the girls would be there. All of the guys wanted to be with him. He was the first person to teach me how to do a lay-up in basketball. Every night, my cousin and I stayed up late playing Ken Griffey Jr. Baseball on his Super Nintendo conversing about each other's life as if we were brothers. Even though some might find that "dorky," the fact that Alan wanted to do it made it cool. He taught me to like Led Zeppelin. When I heard "Stairway to Heaven," it was a flashback to the music my parents listened to all the time. I always felt that I was, to say it plainly, uncool. I was the exact opposite from my cousin, especially around girls. I had never had a date and then one night, "Alan-style," I did. "Do you want to go with me to see a movie tonight with a girl, her brother,

But how will your 5 random-seeming freewrites become 1 brilliant essay & a finished application?

CONNECT

YOUR ESSAY'S UNEXPECTED THEME SURFACES!



Be patient about finding the buried relationship
that's threaded through your drafts...
IT'S ALWAYS THERE!

CONNECT

TIME TO INVOKE **A-B-D-C-E**

A = **ACTION!** The threshold of your discovery

B = Flash**BACK** – how you got there

D = 3 plot-**DEVELOPMENT** steps to attain it

C = **CLIMAX:** *your insight has far more impact than you dreamed*

E = **ENDING/ EVALUATE**

CONNECT: YOUR DRAFTS DISTILLED INTO A-B-D-C-E ORDER

STEP III
Development
These past two weeks, though, have been Heaven. Alan has taught him to...

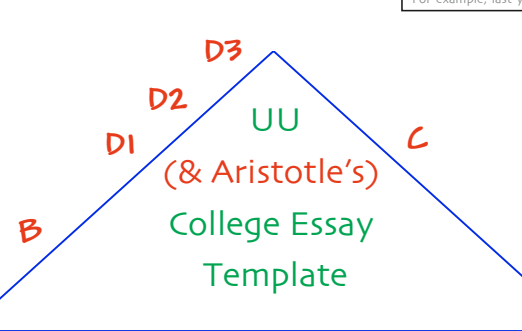
D1
The first time I remember...
D2
My cousin Alan...
went to go

D1...
execute a perfect lay-up...
D2...
appreciate Led Zeppelin...

D3
person I met...
D3
We picked Jessica...
D3
life and love him ever...
D3
met Jessica and AJ...
D3
I just could...

D3
...have his first date with a girl as shy as he is...who proves to have some simple truths to share.

B
got to see the Baseball Hall of Fame with my uncle and Alan. That was just the beginning...
B
felt so bad after middle school and felt empty. My soul seemed as if it had been sucked dry...
B
close since I was born...
B
me for us...
B
I came home from school...
B
wondering how to be



C
Now on this, our last night, here we were again. What on Alan's couch...
C
catching the horror movie...
C
was not afraid. With my hand entwined in Jessica's right where it belonged, I realized that loneliness is the cause of fear. Since I was no longer lonely, I would no

STEP IV
Climax
When Jessica takes his hand, Josh experiences what it means to feel complete.

STEP II
FlashBack Back in middle school, being home alone was Hell.

A
It is strange, but I believe...
A
that I was on a date. We were on a date but give me a break...
A
AJ for the first time...
A
and I were together...
A
the only person in the world that I trust more and will always want to see. He made me the happiest when I was the saddest so far in my

STEP I
Opening Action
Josh's last night at Cousin Alan's finds him home alone on the brink of a midnight visit.

E
After those two weeks that sense of peace...
E
My cousin Alan has always been the coolest...
E
By that I mean...
E
Hanging around

STEP V
Epiphany
Heaven, inner peace & "cool" are One. He'll take this knowledge with him when he leaves.

CONVEY: **CRAFTING YOUR CONNECTION**

You haven't counted words till now. To your surprise, your nearly finished essay weighs in at just a little longer than the requisite 500–750 word count.

CONVEY

SOME FOCUSED FINE-TUNING...

Your Dental Draft

2

STAIRWAYTOHEAVEN --> centered

It is strange, but I believe that for those two weeks the summer before high school, my cousin's house was my heaven. It was a place where schedules and obligations, even parents, were as unbinding as my mesh shorts and tatty tee-shirt. It was the kind of place you only dream about where the people you

use rumpled clothes to show growing inner

I'd... were even an ratight sub... like me could, for the first time attain a sense of peace within myself. That was all thanks to my cousin Alan. He's always been the coolest guy. By that I mean "laid-back." The fact that he was easy-going and carefree made him a magnet.

12 sentences of dialogue

Bing... Owego and New... would go with him to... far, he would know somebody there. All the guys want to be him... be with him.

summary exposition

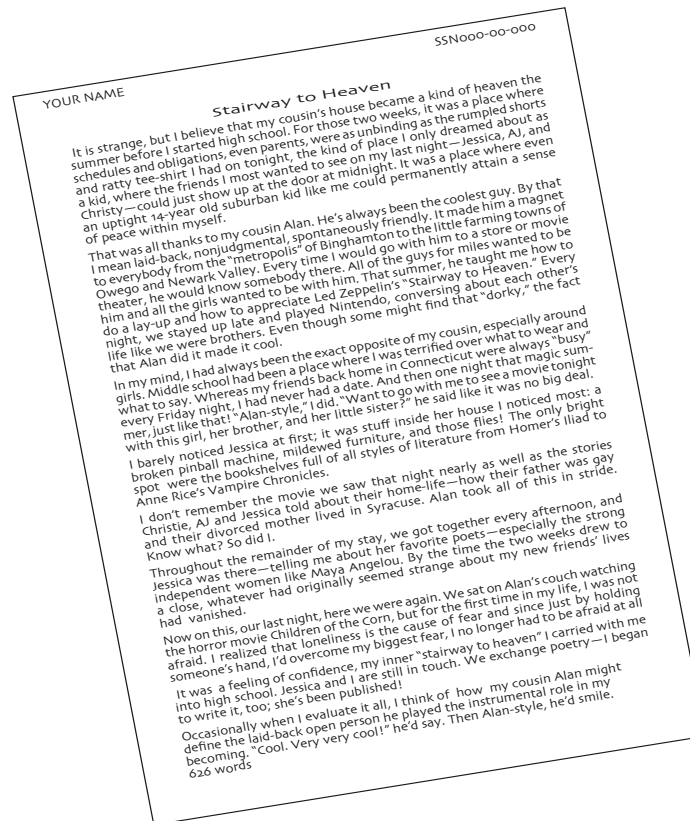
He was the first person to teach me how to do a lay-up in basketball. Every night, my cousin and I stayed up late playing Ken Griffey Jr. Baseball on his Super Nintendo conversing about each other... as if we were brothers. Even though some... that "dorky" the fact that Alan wanted to do it made it cool. He taught me to like Led Zepplin. When I heard Sqirway to Heaven, it was a flashback to the music my parents listened to all the time. I always Alt that I was, to say it plain, uncool. I was t... thought... the exact

if who noticed machine, er the ere the anging icles. I stories Their raceuse, ngly, I er and books lly the ou. By latever es had opping ne the ge not fear longer lo me place carried t have ca and change s have hing— pen to

What the rest of the world thinks it means to rewrite.

CONVEY

YOUR FINISHED ESSAY!



Now let's finish your application!

CONVEY

(FROM **COLLECT** TABLES 1 & 2)

- Your **Common App Activity Grid**
- **Stand-Alone Activity Sheet** to bring to interviews & college visits, give to guidance counselor, teachers, coach & community leaders for recommendations
- **Short Activity Essay** (required on many supplements)
- Specific activities you plan to pursue in college – part of your **“Perfect Match” essay**

CONVEY: FROM
(COLLECT ASSIGNMENTS 1,2,3)

Your “Additional Info” Essay –
if you fit into 1 or more categories...

- **GPA UP or DOWN**
- **FAMILY ISSUES**
 - **ILLNESS**
 - **ADD/LD**
- **DISCIPLINARY**

**THROUGHOUT
YOUR ENTIRE APPLICATION,
YOU'LL CONVEY...**

– exactly what make you

UNIQUELY U.

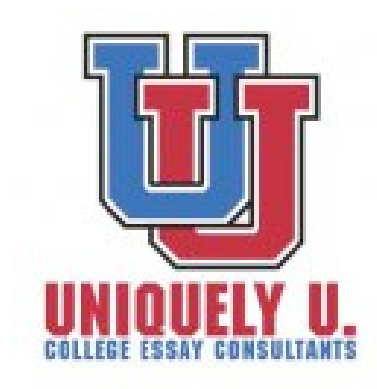
BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION NOW!

1.866.UUESSAY (tollfree)

www.uuessay.com

uniquelyu1@gmail.com

www.uuessay.com/free-consultation-contact-form/



Maxene Fabe Mulford • 55 Riverside • Stamford, CT 06905