

INFORMATIVE ESSAY: College/High School Fair Project

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER (Due WED 10/9)

Name: Ima Spartan Class #: 6-0 Date: 10/9/19

My High School/Community College/University: Verbum Dei High School

INTRODUCTION (do this last along with the Conclusion - Due WED 10/9)

Intro Sentence (*Hook*): **Have you ever heard of a “diamond in the rough”? That is exactly what Verbum Dei High School is for the community of Watts in the city of Los Angeles.**

Background Info (*something unique or interesting about your school + how your school will help you prepare for your personal future*): **The school’s name means “Word of God” in Latin and inspires love for Scripture and service to God’s people.**

Thesis Statement (TOPIC - School’s name + CLAIM - how you feel about the school + MAIN IDEAS/SUPPORTS - because... #1, #2, #3, and #4): **Verbum Dei is a unique high school because of its rich history, excellent academic opportunities, vibrant student and faith life, and strict admission requirements.**

BODY PARAGRAPH #1 (Due THUR 10/3)

Main Idea: **History of the School**

Transition Sentence: **Knowing the background and history of the school helps new students understand Verbum Dei’s very special mission and philosophy.**

Detail: Opened September 1962 request from Archbishop John McIntyre	Example: Fr. Joseph Frances, SVD - 1st African American principal of a Catholic high school in the U.S.
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Detail: Jesuit high school in Watts, CA	Example: attracted working class male students of color from the community to prepare them for college - economically and academically underserved
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Detail: Develops each young man as a whole person to fulfill his potential	Example: spiritual formation, professional work experience, Christian service, and co-curricular activities
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BODY PARAGRAPH #2 (Due THUR 10/3)

Main Idea: **Academic Focus/Majors** (Academics and Degrees)

Transition Sentence: **With so many impressive features at Verbum Dei, the main focus is its education program guided by the Jesuit tradition.**

Detail: **6 departments + Freshman Bridge** Example: English, Math & Science, Social Sciences, Theology, Foreign Language, and Fine Arts + 15-week academic, work preparation, and social skills program to help with transition into Verbum Dei

Detail: **Advanced Placement (AP) classes** Example: Literature and Composition, Calculus, U.S. History, Government, Spanish Language and Culture

Detail: **Corporate Work Study Program** Example: 4-year internship where students can earn a large portion of their tuition costs and gain work experience in a professional business environment

BODY PARAGRAPH #3 (Due MON 10/7)

Main Idea: **Student Life/Faith Life**

Transition Sentence: **As the students grow academically, they also have opportunities to explore their own interests through clubs, athletics, and faith formation.**

Detail: **Clubs and organizations for different interests** Example: Associated Student Body (ASB), Robotics Club, VDHS Film Club, Drum Line, Video Game Design Club, Guitar Club, Student Ambassadors

Detail: **6 sports teams and characteristics of an Eagle student-athlete** Example: Football, basketball, soccer, cross country, track, volleyball

Competitive greatness, team spirit, conditioning, AMDG (for the greater glory of God)

Detail: **Faith formation** Example: Jesuits Educated in Service (JEDIS), freshman and sophomore 1-day class retreats, Junior 4-day KAIROS, Senior overnight retreats

BODY PARAGRAPH #4 (Due MON 10/7)

Main Idea: **Getting In** (Admissions and Tuition/Cost)

Transition Sentence: **Because Verbum Dei provides such great opportunities, they are very selective in their admissions process.**

Detail: **lowest tuition in a Catholic high school in Los Angeles**

Example: **Cost \$18,000 but \$7,300 paid through CWSP, \$8,300 automatic scholarships, \$1,500 average financial aid = families pay about \$1,200/year**

Detail: **strict admission requirements**

Example: **working class families who cannot afford a Catholic education, strong academic record in junior high, 14 years old by 9/1 of freshman year, eligible to work in U.S., maturity and work ethic for CWSP, motivated to graduate from a 4-yr university**

Detail: **application process**

Example: **Admissions application, birth certificate, immunization record, income verification, academic records and recommendation forms, High School Placement Test (HSPT), student and parent interviews**

CONCLUSION (**do this last after the Introduction** - Due WED 10/9)

Wrap-up (*brief summary of your main ideas*): **Being accepted to a school like Verbum Dei is a great privilege for young men who want to get a good Catholic education, be well-rounded, achieve in their careers, and be successful.**

Your concluding thoughts (*your reflection on what you learned from/enjoyed about researching your college*): **I appreciated learning about the different ways this school gives the underserved youth in Los Angeles opportunities that their families would not be able to provide on their own.**

Closing Sentence: **Verbum Dei High School is truly a blessing in the local community for all the good it has brought into the lives of the students to prepare them for college and beyond.**

LOOKING AHEAD...

COLLEGE/HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY FORMAT (Rough Draft Due TUES 10/15, Final Draft Due MON 10/21)

- ☐ MLA format for Heading, Title, and page numbers (see sample)
- ☐ Typed, Times New Roman font, size 12
- ☐ Double-spaced
- ☐ Intro (3-5 sentences), each Body Paragraph (6-8 sentences), Conclusion (3-5 sentences) = **TOTAL 6 PARAGRAPHS for this essay**

COLLEGE/HIGH SCHOOL TRI-FOLD BOARD FORMAT (Due MON 10/21)

- ☐ 3-panel presentation board
- ☐ **Name of University and City, State** in BOLD LETTERS
- ☐ Include pictures of the **mascot, seal** (if any), important **buildings/landmarks** at the school, **famous alumni**, and symbols/graphics for **each of the 4 areas** you researched
- ☐ Include **text boxes/captions** under your pictures to explain what they are, quotes about education + bullet points of important facts about the school
- ☐ Do **NOT** paste your essay to the board
- ☐ Must be neat and colorful!

COLLEGE FAIR – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 @ 9am IN THE HALL