**Questions for Autobiographical Essay**

Begin by reading each question carefully and thinking about them fully before writing. *Only the guidance department will see this so I ask that you be as candid as possible.* Think of this exercise as a review of your life to evaluate who you are, your motivations, philosophy, perspective and influences. Reflect on your whole life to date, but with an emphasis on your high school years, in school and out.

**Questions:**

1. What three characteristics describe you best? Explain. What do you think makes you unique?

2. State your favorite quote and how it relates to your outlook on life.

3. Recall an occasion when you took a risk that you now know was the right thing to do.

4. What have you enjoyed most about your high school experience?

5.What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses, both personal and academic?

6. Where have you traveled and lived (or spent considerable time during vacations) and how has it influenced you?

7. In what activities (extracurricular, community, etc….) are you particularly talented and/ or interested in?

8. What academic areas interest you most? Why?

9. What occupations or professions interest you most? Why?

10. List (in order of their importance to you) honors, prizes and awards you have received in the past three years. Explain the most important one.

11. List all elected and appointed offices you have held or currently hold (in and out of school) over the past three years.

12. What jobs have you held (paid, internship, or volunteer)? Do/will you work during this coming school year?

13. How do you spend your summers and school vacations?

14. What specific goals do you have during your final year at RTMA?

15. What pressures do you feel that you are under as a teenager in today's society? How do you cope with those pressures?

16. Describe your relationship with your parents/guardians.

17. Discuss an issue of personal, local, national, or global concern and its importance to you.

18. If you haven't addressed this already in another response, what SPECIFIC things would you like colleges to know about you? What makes you unique and different? (Don't be afraid to boast about your accomplishments or experiences).

FYI: These questions are also the types of questions you may be asked during a college interview. Give them serious thought now, and you will be that much more prepared when you do meet a college admissions officer – brainstorming now can only help you make a stronger first impression later. Also, keep a copy of your final biography. It will come in handy when you start to writeessays for college applications.

**There is no minimum or maximum length to this “assignment.” You are the sole beneficiary of this exercise and the potential payoff is immense. Please take it seriously and don’t procrastinate!**

**Please type your responses to these questions.**

**You may submit your work via email anytime or in person, before the end of the school year. After that, please email all replies to jwise@thejec.org.**

**As always - if you have any questions, please ask.**