

# 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE REC: ALIF PROGRAM, WEEK 5

## Essay Strategies for Your College Application



### [Student Preparation Summary]

#### **CONTEXT: REC Curriculum Themes**

- Muslim American history in the US since 1400s
- Experiences that make-up Muslim American narrative
- Understanding Muslim identity beyond the textbook

#### **TASKS: Complete Before Week 5**

- Visit ALIF-AKEB site: [tinyurl.com/ALIF-AKEB-2021](https://tinyurl.com/ALIF-AKEB-2021)
- Review on-demand video: [tinyurl.com/12ALIFWeek5](https://tinyurl.com/12ALIFWeek5)
- Bring a laptop (and compatible headphones) to class

#### **APPROACH: Workshop/Self-Study**

- You will have time during class to work independently
- A mentor will be present in class to discuss your essay
- The college application essay can build on, and convey, your Muslim narrative and identity in the US

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

"...there is no better investment that individuals, parents and the nation can make than an **investment in education of the highest possible quality.** Such investments are reflected, and endure, in the formation of the kind of social conscience that our world so desperately needs."

– Mawlana Hazar Imam in Osh, Kyrgyz Republic (2002)

**If you would like to consider an optimal mix of colleges:**



[tinyurl.com/2021CollegeRanking](https://tinyurl.com/2021CollegeRanking)

**If you are exploring ways to structure your essay:**

- Which approach are you considering (e.g., spider map, essence bag, 5 sentences, 3 key questions, other)?
- For a given activity or experience, what impact did you have, what did you learn (e.g., hard or soft skills) and how have you changed?

**If you have an early draft of your essay:**

- Read essay aloud to catch grammatical mistakes and opportunities to improve flow
- Convey increasing levels of leadership, maturity and responsibility
- Consider what the reader feels after reviewing your essay