

James Jess Grainger

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Education:

Teachers College, Columbia University, M.A. in Social Studies (Honors)
Teachers College, Columbia University, Teaching Credential

Graduated August 2007
Awarded June 2007

University of California, Berkeley, B.A. in Sociology
Honors: Dean's List Scholar, Member, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

Graduated May 2004

Awards: <http://826valencia.org/mr-grainger-is-our-january-2014-teacher-of-the-month/>

Professional College Preparation Experience:

Catalyst College Prep, Founder and Director

March 2012 to Present

- Chief essay consultant, editor for all final products and projects
- I help students find their voice to tell stories powerful enough to open doors.
- Created initial consultation and brainstorming process to help all students and editors craft a narrative, and create a roadmap to an exceptional final product
- Trained all additional staff/editors to ensure a high-quality experience for all clients and their families.
- Our organization consistently helps students earn offers of admissions to top schools. Have consistently gotten students into top schools based on the strength of exceptional application essays, that tell their story, and make it clear why they'd be an excellent fit for a particular campus.

GEAR UP Coordinator, Team Lead, College and Career Center

September 2012 to June 2014

Washington High School/International Studies Academy, San Francisco, CA

- Implemented and led outreach efforts for a 5-person team, with a focus on workshops, mentoring, and other activities designed to help 350 "first-in-family" Juniors and Seniors apply successfully to college.
- Led a series of Writer's Workshops designed to help students draft strong and cohesive UC Personal Statements and Common Application essays. Oversaw follow-up efforts to ensure that hundreds of students got the one-on-one attention they needed to ensure they created a compelling final draft.
- Taught college readiness courses. Coordinated with school staff to present in classroom on multiple college-related topics, including personal statements, financial aid and scholarships.
- Personally helped students construct superb essays with which to apply for and secure over \$500K worth of scholarship and grant money, and nearly \$2 million worth of government aid.
- Arranged for no-cost academic support and tutoring, SAT preparation classes, and comprehensive college mentoring for Juniors and Seniors to promote college eligibility.
- Won a "Teacher of the Month" award and honorarium from 826 Valencia:
- Helped students interested in community college identify and pursue transfer pathways.
- Successfully increased school-wide FAFSA completion rate by 29%

Additional Skills/Background

- I taught English and Social Studies at the Middle and High School level for 8 years. I have also run a mental health education program for adolescents and young adults.
- Extensive experience working with students for whom English is not a first language
- Strong technological savvy, including Microsoft Office Suite, SPSS, and video editing
- Project management, specifically related to meeting deadlines

*Excellent references available upon request