

Agnes Scott - Describe the influence a work of art has had on you.

American University - Choose one essay topic. Write no more than 500 words, on your own paper.

- Imagine you are the editor of a major national news magazine. Write the cover story you would choose for the issue that would be on the newsstands January 1, 2010.
- Describe an event or individual that has been instrumental in shaping who you are. Tell us why this event/person has been significant in your life.
- Instead of writing on one of the above topics, you may submit a creative/fiction writing sample completed for a class.

Amherst - Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you.

Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.

Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.

Brown - Tell us something more about yourself that would help us toward a sense of who you are, how you think, and what issues and ideas interest you most.

Carnegie-Mellon - Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning for you.

College of Charleston (Honors) - We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the Governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

This passage offers a brief definition of human nature and democratic government. These are beliefs or values rather than facts. Write an essay in which you analyze the validity of these ideas, taking one of the following approaches:

- Are the definitions valid? Give evidence from history and/or current events to support your answer.
- How should these definitions of human nature and democracy be interpreted today in promoting the "safety and happiness" of this country's citizens?
- Compare this passage to another literary work that either supports or refutes this definition of human nature and democracy.

Columbia - Write an essay which conveys to the reader a sense of who you are. Possible topics may include, but not limited to, experiences which have shaped your life, the circumstances of your upbringing, the way you see the world - the people in it, events great and small, everyday life, or any personal theme which appeals to your imagination.

Cornell University - Choose one of the following:

"The great aim of education is not knowledge, but action." (Herbert Spencer, English philosopher, 1820-1903). Discuss a situation in your life outside of school in which you put into action what you learned in the classroom. How did you benefit from this experience? What has the situation led you to believe about what education should or should not do?

Tell us about a person who has had an important influence on you. What qualities in that person do you most admire, and how have you grown from knowing that person?

Ask, and then answer, an important question you would like us to ask.

Tell us what you'd like to study at Cornell. What field(s) of study interest you, and why? How did your interest develop?

Dartmouth - Create a question that you would want incoming freshmen to answer. Answer it.

Duke - Short Answer:

- Why do you consider Duke a good match for you? Is there something in particular you anticipate contributing to the Duke community.
- Consider the books you have read in the last two years either for school or leisure. Please discuss the way in which one of them has changed your understanding of the world, other people, or yourself.

Essay - According to Stephen Carter, we can admire those with integrity even if we disagree with them. Are there people you admire even though you deeply disagree with them? What do you admire about them? How do you reconcile this apparent contradiction in your assessment?

Elon - Identify and discuss an important problem facing modern society. Describe an approach that would give insight into a possible solution.

Georgia Institute of Technology - Of your many personal experiences, describe the one that gave you the feeling of greatest achievement or satisfaction. (limit to space below - one page)

Harvard University - Radcliffe - Personal Statement - This personal statement helps us become acquainted with you as an individual in ways different from courses, grades, test scores and other objective data. Please write an essay (250-500 words) on a topic of your choice or on one of the options listed below. You may attach your essay on separate sheets (same size, please). The best essays are not necessarily the long ones!

Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you.

Discuss some issue of personal, local, national or international concern and its importance to you.

Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.

Lynchburg College - Write a 250 word (minimum) essay on one of the following topics:

- If you could change places with anyone in the world for 24 hours, who would it be and what would you do?
- Coping with a serious problem or challenge may help establish your true moral or ethical character. Have you faced such a situation? What was the outcome?
- Comment on the topic of your choice.

Middlebury College - What do you feel is important for us to know about you?

MIT - Tell us about an opinion that you have had to defend or an incident in your life which placed you in conflict with the beliefs of a majority of people and explain how this affected your value system.

Make up a question that is personally relevant to you, state it clearly and answer it.

Notre Dame - On a sheet of paper, you are invited to write an essay or series of thoughts or observations or to present yourself in any manner you judge to be suitable. Some past applications have presented their special talents, unique interests, socioeconomic or cultural backgrounds and dozens of other personal qualities. If applicable, you may make special mention in this statement of your strong desire to attend Notre Dame.

NYU - Identity and culture are closely intertwined. How has your experience of culture influenced the development of your personal identity.

Describe a situation where your values or beliefs were challenged. How did you react?

How will your current knowledge of international issues and cultures influence your undergraduate studies?

Select a creative work that has influenced the way you view the world and yourself. Discuss the work and its effects on you.

Princeton University - (all four of these questions must be answered and fit in the space provided - about $\frac{1}{2}$ page for each.

- If you were given the time and resources to develop one particular skill, or talent, or area of expertise, what would you choose to pursue and why?
- What book that you've read in the past couple of years left the greatest impression on you? Explain why.
- Chances are that you're going to have one or more roommates at some point in your college years. What sort of person would make a good match for you? Explain why?
- Those of us in admissions are often asked what are the two or three things in a student's application to which we give the greatest weight. If you were in our shoes, what are the two or three things in an application to which you would give the greatest weight? Explain why?

Stanford University - Attach a small photograph (3.5 x 5 or smaller) of something important to you and explain its significance. *Please print your name on the back of the photo. Photos cannot be returned; you may send a photocopy if you prefer. If you apply electronically, you can attach your photo to the signature page.* (one page)

If you were to write a book, on what theme or subject matter would it be based, and why?

University of Georgia - Personal Statement: Briefly describe an academic or extracurricular accomplishment of which you are most proud. Limit your answer to no more than 100 words.

University of North Carolina at Asheville - Great books give us insight into the human condition and influence our lives. We all recognize the importance of the Bible, Koran, and the Torah in framing the cultures of the present world. What book, other than those three, has most influenced your life? Why?

University of Virginia - (a) Answer the question for the undergraduate school to which you are applying, limit yourself to $\frac{1}{2}$ page, 250 words.

- *College of Arts and Science* - What work of Art, music, science, mathematics or literature has influenced your thinking, and in what way?
- *School of Architecture* - Which of the majors in school or architecture, architectural history, or urban and environmental planning most appeals to you and why?
- *School of Engineering* - Engineers will face many challenges over the next twenty years. Which of these challenges seems the most compelling to you and why?
- *School of Nursing* -- What experiences have led you to choose the school of nursing.

(b) Most people belong to many different communities - groups defined by shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place in it. ($\frac{1}{2}$ page = 250 words)

Vanderbilt - Each candidate for admission possesses qualities not necessarily visible in a list of activities and achievements. We have found that an essay is often an effective vehicle to a more complete and fair understanding of a candidate for admission to Vanderbilt. We will leave the choice of topic up to you.

Your essay should allow us to develop a sense of your effectiveness in written communication, and to understand more fully who you are and what you value.

Wake Forest University - Please respond to all of these states.

- The motto of Wake Forest is *Pro Humanitate*. Explain what *Pro Humanitate* means to you.
- With which character in literature (excluding children's or animated literature) do you most identify? Why?
- Nicholas Boileau, in *Satires*, writes, "Honor is like a rugged island without a shore; once you have left it, you cannot return." How does this definition compare to your personal perception of honor?

Wheaton College - Describe the beginning and development of your faith and its impact on your life. (2 pp.)

William and Mary - Discuss how a particular work of music, literature or art has inspired your life.

Yale University - Please answer both: (Both are limited to the space beneath - one page)

Please write an essay about an activity or interest that has been particularly meaningful to you.

Please use the space on this page to let us know something about you that we might not learn from the rest of your application. In writing about something that matters to you, you will convey to us a sense of yourself.

Vassar - Please write, in some detail, about an experience, an achievement, a person, or a matter of particular significance to you.

Wesleyan - Chose One: (250 - 500 words)

- Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you and describe that influence.

Williams College - Comment on an experience that helped you discern or define a value that you hold.