

ScholarMatch



Common App Personal Statement Prompts 2016-2017

Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

- What makes you unique?
- Describe your family dynamic. How is this part of your identity? What does identity mean to you?
- What do you feel makes your world unique compared to others? How is it different? What do you do?
- What hobbies do you enjoy? What events, people, and places have influenced you?
- What are you most proud of doing? What makes you unique? Why is being unique important?

The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from this experience?

- What are some failures you've experienced in your life? Why did you fail? How did you hope to grow from that experience? How do you expect to prevent future failures?
- What did you learn about yourself or others through this experience? Did it change how you view certain things? Did this experience make you stronger?
- What is one thing you like to be able to do over again differently?
- Did you discover something unexpected?

Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

- What did you speak out about? What provoked you? What effect did it have? How did you grow?
- Why'd you choose to speak out about that incident? Were you or someone else being treated unfairly?
- What did you discover about this idea or belief? Did it change your view?
- Why would you make or not make the same decision again? How did you feel?

Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma-anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

- Brainstorm issues in your community or in society that you'd like to fix. Why do you feel connected to a particular issue? What specific way would you change society, traditions, government systems, etc.?

- Have you had to solve a relationship problem with friends or family members? How did this influence you and how did you fix it?
- Have you had a project in school that challenged you to solve a problem or research an issue you feel passionate about and propose solutions?

Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

- Why do you think you're an adult? What are the memories you have of it? How have you transformed? Would you change anything about the transition?
- Did you learn anything about yourself? What strengths and weaknesses did you have then and did it change with this accomplishment?
- What is your community like? What is your family like? How has your culture shaped you?
- Did you receive any special recognition for this accomplishment? If so, what did you receive?