

## Part II of Summer Assignment For Seniors

Class of 2018

**In addition to completing a literature assignment, you are required to prepare your college essay. Attached, you will find the prompts for 2017-18. Please choose one, and respond appropriately.**

**This assignment is due on Monday, September 11, 2017. All late submissions will incur a five (5) point penalty, for each day they are late.**

### The Common Application Announces 2017-2018 Essay Prompts

We are pleased to share the 2017-2018 Common Application essay prompts with you. The changes you see below reflect the feedback of 108 Common App member colleges and more than 5,000 other Common App constituents, as well as consultation with our advisory committees and Board of Directors. Students represented the single largest share of constituent survey respondents (59%), followed by school counselors (23%), and teachers (11%).

### The Common App Essay Prompts Are Changing

We were gratified to learn that 91% of members and 90% of constituents agree or strongly agree that the current prompts are effective. In addition, the narrative comments we received helped us see areas for improvement in three of the prompts. Working in close consultation with the counselors and admission officers on our advisory committees, we revised these prompts in a way that we believe will help students see expanded opportunities for expressing themselves. Those revisions appear in italics. You will also notice two new prompts. The first asks students to share examples of their intellectual curiosity. The second is a return to inviting students to submit an essay on a topic of their choice, reframed to help students understand that they are welcome to draw inspiration from multiple sources, not just their own creativity.

The word limit on the essay will remain at 650.

The goal of these revisions is to help all applicants, regardless of background or access to counseling, see themselves and their stories within the prompts. They are designed to invite unencumbered discussions of character and community, identity, and aspiration. To this end, we will be creating new educational resources to help students both understand and approach the opportunities the essay presents for them.

## 2017-2018 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story. [No change]
2. The lessons we take from *obstacles we encounter* can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a *challenge, setback, or failure*. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? [Revised]
3. Reflect on a time when you *questioned* or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your *thinking*? What was *the outcome*? [Revised]
4. 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. [No change]
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or *realization* that *sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others*. [Revised]
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more? [New]
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design. [New]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## College Application Essay Scoring Rubric

Criteria to be Assessed	4	3	2	1
1. Ideas	Writing successfully presents the topic in a novel or unique way. Writing includes excellent and specific concrete detail and insightful commentary.	Writing presents the topic in an interesting way. Writing includes good concrete detail and some insightful commentary.	Writing presents the topic in an ordinary way. Writing includes concrete detail, but commentary is obvious, simplistic, or generic.	Writing presents topic in an ordinary way. Concrete details and commentary are either weak or missing.
2. Organization	Writing has a compelling and logical flow of ideas.	Writing has a logical flow of ideas.	Organization is rough but workable. It sometimes gets off topic.	Writing is aimless and disorganized.
3. Topic Sentences and Transitions	Paragraphs have focused and poignant topic sentences and smooth, almost seamless transitions.	Paragraphs have focused topic sentences and obvious transitions.	Paragraphs have topic sentences that need to be more focused and rough transitions.	Paragraphs lack topic sentences and transitions.
4. Description	Writing consistently and effectively shows rather than tells through specific and vivid details.	Writing shows rather than tell, but details could be more specific and vivid.	Writing includes some showing but needs more.	Writing uses all telling and no showing.
5. Voice	Writing reveals your unique personality and view of the world, leaving the reader to want to know more about who you are.	Writing reveals some of your thoughts and feelings, but needs more personality behind it.	Writing is bland. There is either no hint of a real person behind the writing.	Writing is too informal. It sounds like you don't care about the topic of the essay.
6. Word Choice	Writing uses words that are striking and fresh but natural, varied, and vivid.	Writing makes some quality but also some routine or ordinary word choices.	Writing uses words that are dull or uninspired. Writing sounds like you are trying too hard to impress.	Writing uses the same words over and over. Some words may be confusing or inappropriate.
7. Grammar Usage and Sentence Fluency	Writing uses proper grammar 100% of the time. Sentences flow well and vary in construction and length.	Writing has a few grammar problems. Sentences flow well but do not vary much.	Writing has enough grammar errors to distract a reader. Some sentences do not flow well and/or are not varied at all.	Writing has numerous grammar mistakes and poor sentence construction that make the paper hard to read.
8. Spelling and Punctuation	Writing uses correct punctuation and spelling 100% of the time.	Writing has a few errors to fix, but generally uses correct conventions.	Writing has enough errors in the essay to distract a reader.	Writing has numerous errors that make the paper hard to read.

Total Score \_\_\_\_\_ X 3.13 = \_\_\_\_\_ /100