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

**Choose one of the topics below and write an essay.**

* 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.
* Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure.  How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
* Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea.  What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
* Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content.  What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
* Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

**Words to describe yourself in a college essay:**

**A:** Academic, adventurous, an advocate, analytical, animal-lover, animated, articulate, artistic, assertive, astute, athletic, autonomous

**B:** Balanced, brilliant, business-oriented

**C:** Can-do attitude, capable, caring, cerebral, good with children, class clown, community service oriented, compassionate, competent, concerned about others, confident, conscientious, considerate, courageous, creative, curious

**D:** Daring, dependable, detail-oriented, diligent, disciplined, down-to-earth, driven

**E:** Empathetic, enthusiastic, an entrepreneur, ethical, an explorer

**F:** Fearless, a finisher, fitness-oriented, flexible, focused, a foodie, friendly, doesn't suffer fools, fun, funny

**G:** Generous, gentle, genuine, never gives up, goal-oriented, goes beyond what is expected, good natured, good with the elderly, gracious, grounded

**H:** Happy, hard-working, health-oriented, honest, humble, GREAT sense of humor

**I:** Imaginative, fiercely independent, inspirational, an intellectual, intelligent, interpersonal, involved

**J:** Jovial, joyful

**K:** Kind, has real know-how, knowledge-seeking

**L:** Good with languages, a leader, a fast learner, logical, loyal

**M:** Mature, mechanically oriented, methodical, modest, motivated, multi-lingual, musical

**N:** Natural, nonconformist

**O:** An "old-soul," optimistic, organized, original, outdoorsy, outgoing, his or her own person

**P:** Passionate, patient, persistent, poised, polite, popular, positive, has stage presence, a problem solver

**Q:** Quick, quirky

**R:** A reader, reliable, a researcher, resilient, resourceful, respected, respectful, responsible, a risk-taker

**S:** Scholarly, scientific, a self-starter, science-oriented, sensitive to others, sincere, sparkling, spiritual, a sponge for ideas, a sports nut, stands out from the crowd, social, strong-willed, studious, supportive

**T:** Take-charge person, talented, a natural teacher, a team player, techy, tenacious, deep thinker, thirsty for knowledge, loves to travel, trustworthy

**U:** Unafraid, unique, unpretentious, upfront

**V:** Vivacious

**W:** Willing to step up, worldly, beautiful writer

**X:** A xenophile (love of foreigners)

**Z:** Zealous