

CommonApp Essay Prompt Worksheet

<p>SHARE YOUR STORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some students have a background, <u>identity</u>, interest, or talent so meaningful that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story. 	<p>Who are you? What are you?</p>	<p>Share a background/story CENTRAL TO YOUR IDENTITY. What drives you? What made you who you are today? What life circumstances affected you to the core and consequently will prove your success?</p> <p>Discuss cultural, ethnic, familial, medical, physical, economic, or any other set of circumstances that defines who you are as a person.</p>	<p>Focus on CHARACTER, not ACIEVEMENTS.</p>
<p>LEARNING FROM OBSTACLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles can teach us lessons that are 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? 	<p>Describe an incident/time when you experienced failure.</p>	<p>How did it <u>affect</u> you? Emotionally? Physically? Mentally?</p>	<p>What did you <u>learn</u>?</p>
<p>CHALLENGING A BELIEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome? 	<p>Describe a circumstance/event when you challenged a belief or idea (It can be your own idea or another person's idea).</p>	<p>What prompted you to act?</p>	<p>Would you make the same decision again?</p> <p>WHY OR WHY NOT?</p>
<p>SOLVING A PROBLEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe a problem you have solved or a problem you would 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 take to identify a solution. 	<p>Describe a problem that you have solved/would like to solve.</p> <p>Is it intellectual, a research query, an ethical dilemma?</p>	<p>What is the significance? Why is it important to you?</p>	<p>What steps were taken/or could be taken for a solution?</p>

CommonApp Essay Prompt Worksheet

<p>PERSONAL GROWTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss an accomplishment or event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others. 	<p>Identify and describe an accomplishment/event that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.</p>	<p>How did it change you?</p> <p>How did it cause/mark your transition to adulthood?</p>	<p>How/Why is it important to your culture, community, or family?</p>
<p>WHAT CAPTIVATES YOU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more? 	<p>Give an anecdote that demonstrates the depth of your interest.</p>	<p>WHY? Explain the reasons for your interest.</p>	<p>Justify your devotion to this topic, idea, or concept.</p>
<p>YOUR CHOICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you have already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design. 	<p>Show the admissions committee who you are <u>beyond grades and test scores</u>.</p>	<p>There is not a prompt to guide you, so you must ask yourself questions to get at the heart of the story you want to tell.</p>	<p>For any topic, ask yourself HOW and WHY.</p>