I have always found relief in the strength of being honest in a world of hidden intentions. While society values complexity, I have learned the fundamental value of speaking my truth and valuing honesty in every aspect of my life. Although some might find my straightforwardness intimidating, I have discovered that it has become a crucial part of my identity and has shaped my experiences, relationships, and personal development in ways I never imagined.

For some people, it’s their favorite part about me, how I can be completely truthful to them without any lies, while others may see it as a reason why they get intimidated by me. But I see being straightforward as being genuine and transparent in both my words and actions. It shows that I don't hide behind an image and that I think genuine connections can only grow when they are based on mutual trust. This way of thinking has helped me through a lot of experiences, molding my personality and showing me how important open communication is.

Furthermore, being honest has had a significant impact on my own personal growth. Since I was being honest with other people, that means I was also able to be honest with myself, I've been able to push past my weaknesses and encourage improvement in myself. Although it takes courage to acknowledge my weaknesses, I have come to view vulnerability as a growth-promoting force due to my commitment to genuineness. It didn’t take me long to learn that rather pretending to be flawless, personal growth is able to occur only when I acknowledge my flaws and am willing to work on them.

Other than that, being straightforward holds a significant role in my relationships with the people around me. Being honest has been essential in my relationships as well. I've developed healthier relationships with my family and friends by establishing clear expectations and boundaries. People in my life value my honesty and openness because they know they can turn to me for open advice and constant encouragement. I have seen firsthand how honesty can lower barriers and promote genuine understanding in a world full of sugarcoating. It is a valuable tool for fixing conflicts and developing stronger relationships with those close to me. I have observed how this quality fosters a safe environment for others to express their thoughts and anxieties or simply to speak honestly.

However, it is important for me to realize that being straightforward with people isn’t for everyone. Some people may take it the wrong way and it might be difficult to deliver it in a way where it can be accepted by anyone at any time. Therefore, while being honest is important, I have learned to value the value of empathy and caution in my interactions. I always make an effort to speak sensitively, aware that the effect of my words is just as important as the subject matter. I want to create a space where genuineness can thrive without causing harm or offense by combining transparency with empathy.

I'm pleased to acknowledge the power of being a straightforward person in a world that is frequently hidden in vagueness and dishonesty. I firmly believe that genuineness is a strength to be celebrated rather than feared. I'm dedicated to leading a life that is guided by truth and integrity by promoting open communication, encouraging personal development, and developing meaningful relationships. Being direct is not always the easiest course of action, but it is one that I passionately choose because I am aware of the fact it is the most sincere.

Hi Andrew,

Thank you for your essay! Your passion for honesty shows through this draft and goal of creating a space for open communication and personal development is commendable. You’ve got drive, and the admissions officer will definitely see it.

Common App essays usually highlight your goals (academic and long-term), your desired major, your past experiences that strengthens your qualification for that major, and your personal drive or reasoning behind your major of choice. I recommend this structure for your essay:

1. Introduction paragraph: Your high value of honesty and how it came to be. What were your past experiences that led you to value it so much and how have you implemented it in your life today. End the paragraph by tying your value and what you want to do with it (creating an open space for communication)
2. Second paragraph: Summarize how you want to achieve your goal and how your major of choice will help you achieve it.
3. Third and fourth paragraphs: Relevant experiences that strengthen your knowledge in the major and/or future goals. AP or IB HL subjects, in-school or out of school activities, awards or competitions, or internships/fellowships/volunteering that an officer can note as valuable to your application. Make sure to also explain how each experience molded your understanding of your major and/or goal or character.
4. Fifth paragraph: Elaborate (in addition to para. 2) on what you may plan to do with your major of choice. What would be the next steps to take to make your goal happen? Be specific.
5. Concluding paragraph: Reiterate your goal and how your major will help you achieve this. Tie back your personal reasoning for your passion and how you want to extend this to others.

The main goal of the essay is to show the admissions officer that you do not simply have a passion, but that you know what you need to do to create something with it. What is special about your major of choice that only it can help you with your goal? What have you done so far to make it happen?

Best,

Caroline