**In addition to the essay you have written for the Common Application, please write an essay of about 500 words (no more than 650 words and no fewer than 250 words). Using one of the themes below as a starting point, write about a person, event, or experience that helped you define one of your values or in some way changed how you approach the world. Please do not repeat, in full or in part, the essay you wrote for the Common Application.\***

**1. Tell us about a person who has influenced you in a significant way. (*Word Count 620*)**

When I think about someone inspiring me, one name immediately pops up in my mind: Bruce Wayne. Bruce Wayne, commonly known as Batman, is a fictional character that appears in the D.C. comics. In the D.C. universe almost all the heroes and villains have inconceivable power. For example Superman, who can fly, shoot lasers from his eyes that can break walls and is stronger than steel. Then there is the Flash who can run at supersonic speeds up to many matches, he can throw lightning, run through walls and do much more. Green Lantern can materialize anything using his will: tanks, missiles, rockets, or whatever he wishes. The villains like Darkseid are stronger than all of these individual heroes.

But among these god-like creatures, stands Batman, a mere human with no superpowers. Batman spent years training, the comics say he knows ALL the martial arts – 127 different styles of combat. In addition to that, he works out to build his strength more than most other people. Lastly, he becomes the owner of the Wayne enterprises after his parents were tragically shot when he was a child. That incident drove him to wage a one-man war on crime. He combines his training, strength and money to design himself a suit, vehicles and a lair with the help of his butler.

But the reason I truly admire Batman is because he can best all these other superheroes. And the reason that propels him to be the best is because he is weak. Batman acknowledges that he would be powerless if he were to fight any of the other characters and that is exactly what makes him admirable. In one of the comics series Justice League of America: the Tower of Babel, a villain steals Batman’s contingency plans: plans he made to neutralize each and every member of the Justice League (all the heroes mentioned above) in case they ever went rogue. Using these plans the villain nearly kills all the heroes which shows that if Batman wanted, he could kill any of these heroes despite the difference in their abilities. In many versions of the comics, Batman has indeed defeated and killed Superman which seems impossible. But that is where Batman’s strength lies, he knows himself and his opponents. He collects information on their weaknesses and uses them to defeat his opponents no matter who he faces.

Batman has another quality that I admire and desire. That is his superhuman mental fortitude. Through his willpower alone, Batman has resisted Scarecrow’s most potent fear toxins, overcome Joker’s paralytic gas, survived poisoning, slowed his bleeding after a severe gunshot wound, resisted various forms of telepathy (once while fighting a group of henchmen at the same time), negated magical attacks targeted at him, swam through quicksand and perhaps most impressively, resisted Poison Ivy’s extremely potent pheromones. And as a recognition of his will, he was able to wield the Green Lantern’s ring, a weapon that only accepts a select group of users after acknowledging their boundless will.

One other thing that I have learnt from Batman is morals. Of course, him being a superhero, he vows not to kill anyone saying that if you killed a killer, the number of killers would remain the same. I cannot possibly adopt that principle because I don’t wear a cape and fight crime. But what I get from him is how strict he is about his principles and also how he wants to do good for other people. He inspired me to live by a code of my own. These are the qualities I seek. This is what makes Batman both admirable and fearful. Being just a human, he stands among god-like beings with unimaginable power - he stands on top.