Common App Essay

This is the official link to common app’s 2015-2016 prompts. You will need to write an essay for ONE of these prompts. There is a 650 word limit.

<https://recsupport.commonapp.org/link/portal/33011/33014/Article/2057/2015-16-Common-Application-Essay-Prompts>

We are pleased to share the 2015-2016 Essay Prompts with you. New language appears in italics:  
  
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.  
   
2. *The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success.*Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?  
   
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea.  What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?  
   
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.*  
   
5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

It may be **optional** for the university you are applying! So please check the college requirement before investing weeks of your life writing the essay.

<http://blog.commonapp.org/2015/03/31/2015-2016-essay-changes/>

Starting with the 2015-2016 application year, Common Application Member colleges and universities will have the choice to require or not require the Common App Personal Essay.  Here is what you and your students can expect next year with respect to essay requirements and the submission process.

The clunky website is expected to be slightly more user friendly.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2015/05/15/common-application-makes-changes-for-2015-16-here-they-are/>

[Applicants can now preview any part of the Common App, screen by screen, at any time](http://blog.commonapp.org/2015/03/31/application-preview-function/). Before this year, students had to complete the entire Common App but wait for the submission stage before having a chance to preview the application as a whole. This will be a nice convenience and help students work efficiently, piece by piece.

Some Insights:

<http://info.getintocollege.com/blog/bid/362252/Common-App-Essay-Prompts-for-2015-2016-College-Coach-Blog>

<http://www.collegeessayadvisors.com/changes-to-the-2015-2016-common-application-essay/>