

# ADMISSION ESSAYS

[WWW.APPLYTEXAS.ORG](http://WWW.APPLYTEXAS.ORG)

## Essay Tips/Thoughts

Most colleges and universities in Texas do not require essays as part of the admission process. Check [www.applytexas.org/universities](http://www.applytexas.org/universities)

Remember, optional = required if you want an edge on other applicants not willing to do the extra work.

Also, some schools do not require essays, but you are not eligible for scholarships if you do not write the essays. The only way to know? Ask the admissions office of the colleges you are applying to regarding whether writing essays when not required will benefit your application or scholarship opportunities.

## APPLYTEXAS Essay Topics

Institutions do not require all four essays but usually specify required ones. Unless otherwise specified, your essay(s) should be typed and be no longer than one to two pages (8 1/2" x 11").

**ANSWER ALL PARTS OF THE PROMPT!!!!**

### Topic A.

Describe a setting in which you have collaborated or interacted with people whose experiences and/or beliefs differ from yours. Address your initial feelings and how those feelings were or were not changed by this experience.

### Topic B.

Describe a circumstance, obstacle or conflict in your life and the skills and resources you used to resolve it. Did it change you? If so, how?

### Topic C.

Considering your lifetime goals, discuss how your current and future academic and extra-curricular activities might help you achieve your goals.

**Topic D. – ONLY majors in Architecture, Art, Art History, Design, Studio Art, Visual Art Studies/Art Education at SELECT SCHOOLS.** \*see the “General Application Information” on the ApplyTexas website for details.

If you are not applying for the above majors, you are not required to write this essay.

Personal interaction with objects, images and spaces can be so powerful as to change the way one thinks about particular issues or topics. For your intended area of study (architecture, art history, design, studio art, visual art studies/art education), describe an experience where instruction in that area or your personal interaction with an object, image or space effected type of change in your thinking. What did you do to act upon your new thinking and what have you done to prepare yourself for further study in this area?

# ADMISSION PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAYS

[WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG](http://WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG)

## Essay Tips

The Common Application essay prompts have been revised slightly for 2015-2016, the essay length will continue to be capped at 650 words with no minimum. Additionally, there will be unlimited essay edits and a print preview option.

Bold, underline, and italics will always carry over to Print Preview. Extra spaces will be removed automatically when you click continue. This means that you will not be able to indent your paragraphs. Colleges are aware of this formatting and take it into consideration when viewing your essay.

You should not customize your essay or make it college specific since one copy of your application will go to all of your schools.

Once an application has been submitted, you cannot make any change to it.

## **2015-16 Common Application Essay Prompts** **ANSWER ALL PARTS OF THE PROMPT!!!!**

- *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.*
- *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?*
- *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 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.*
- *Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.*