

British Literature, World Literature, AP Literature/ENG 201 Dual Credit 2020-21 Common Application Essay Prompts

Directions: ALL seniors will select one prompt and compose a complete, proofread practice college application essay to be turned in on the FIRST day of school. The required word limit is between 250 and 650 words, no more, no less. As always, PROOFREAD!

This assignment will be submitted with the rest of your summer work for literature class on the first day of school. After the instructor leaves comments, students will make corrections/edit as needed (perhaps even change the prompt and write a new essay) before uploading a final version to the Common App website once you start applying for college.

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 obstacles we encounter can be 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?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
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, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

NOTE: For more information on the application process, visit <https://www.commonapp.org> or <https://www.commonapp.org/ready> for a series of ready-to-use resources, presentations, training videos, etc. covering everything from account creation through submission.