

# 2021-2022 Essay Prompts

Updated for 2021-2022 Applications

**APPLYTEXAS — FRESHMEN ONLY**  
2021-2022 Prompts Are Unchanged From Last Year

Opens July 1  
Source: [applytexas.org](https://applytexas.org)

Maximum of 120 lines per essay

- **Essay A.** Tell us your story. What unique opportunities or challenges have you experienced throughout your high school career that have shaped who you are today?
- **Essay B.** Most students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.
- **Essay C.** You've got a ticket in your hand. Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

**COMMON APP**  
Prompt 4 is new for 2021-2022

Opens Aug. 1  
Source: [commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts](https://commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts)

Maximum 650 words, minimum 250 words

- 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 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?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 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?
- 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.

Optional COVID-19 Essay (250 words)

- Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces.

**COALITION APP**  
2021-22 Prompts Are Unchanged From Last Year

Source: [coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays](https://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays)

Recommended 500-650 words

- Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
- Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
- Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
- What is the hardest part of being a student now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
- Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.