**Personal Statement Prompts**

**What is a personal statement? Good question.**

“Your personal statement should be exactly that — personal. This is your opportunity to tell [colleges/scholarships groups/teachers/ counselors] about yourself — your hopes, ambitions, life experiences, inspirations. We encourage you to take your time on this assignment. Be open. Be reflective. Find your individual voice and express it honestly.”

* *the University of California’s suggestion to students about personal statements*

**What are some examples of personal statement prompts?**

The Common Application will retain the current set of essay prompts for 2015-16, without any edits or additions. The essay length will be capped at 650 words.

The essay prompts are as follows:

* 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.
* *Information from:* [*http://blog.commonapp.org/2015/03/31/2015-2016-essay-prompts/*](http://blog.commonapp.org/2015/03/31/2015-2016-essay-prompts/)

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