

**2015/16 common application essay prompts: Choose one**  
*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.*

1. *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?*
2. *Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?*
3. *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.*
4. *Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.*

**University of Utah Essay Prompt:**

**Essay Prompts (submit in one document)**

In 500 words

*The year is 2150 and you are one of the settlers of the first colony on a newly discovered planet (which miraculously turns out to have a climate, atmosphere and geography remarkably similar to that of Earth). Everyone has comfortable housing and a 5-year supply of food and water. The other settlers unanimously elect you as their first leader.*

*What will you do next? Also include an interplanetary Tweet to Mission Control explaining why they elected you (140 characters).*

*AND*

*In 50 words*

*What is it that interests you about the Liberal Arts and Sciences education (hint: look this term up) offered by the Honors College?*