

Common App has announced that the **essay prompts for the 2020-2021 application year will remain the same** as the prompts for the previous year. These prompts include:

- 1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, 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 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 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.*

In addition, the Common App is providing an optional “common” question, located in the Additional Information section of your application, which will give students the opportunity to **write about how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected them as people and students.**

Here is the additional Covid-19 question that students will see on the Common App:

*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.*

- *Do you wish to share anything on this topic? Y/N*
- *Please use this space to describe how these events have impacted you.*

This question is **optional** and students will be limited to **250 words** in their response. This question can be found under Additional Information in the application. You can find more information and resources on Covid-19’s impact on college application season (including changes to deposit deadlines, standardized testing updates, and a virtual college fair) [HERE](#) on the Common App website.