Admissions want a glimpse of your personality, your values, your interests and your passions. They want to get an idea of what kind of attitude and energy you will bring to the classroom and campus life.

**Question 1:**

What has helped shape the person you are today? It can be something as small as seeing an episode of a television show, or as large as the struggle of moving to a foreign country.

It should be specific to you and be dynamic. Did a family tradition or family event shape you as a person/define how you see your family? Did you read/see something that inspired you? Why did you love it?

How would you define yourself and what influences in your life led you down your current path?

**Question 2:**

Should aim to show humility and resilience in this essay.

How did you deal with your hardship? Are you the kind of person who can rebound – someone who turns every experience into a lesson to be learnt from?

Can you isolate an incident of trial in your life and how you learned from it?

Try to keep these stories as positive as possible. Remember, these essays are not really about failing to meet your own academic/ life expectations; they are about overcoming obstacles, and refusing to submit to life’s greatest challenges.

**Question 3:**

Hardest prompt question. It requires a student to speak passionately about beliefs and ideology, which are often onerous topics that can be difficult to mould into a compact story.

Responses to this prompt can be deeply personal, they can also be quite controversial, and students need to carefully assess the risks of advocating beliefs that might be isolating for the readers of their applications. Why are you the kind of person who is willing to stand up for what you believe in? What is important to you on a fundamental level of morals and values?

**Question 4:**

This prompt is quite similar to prompt #2 in that it is meant to tease out a student’s problem-solving skills and provide a glimpse into an applicant’s frame of mind when dealing with challenges.

Students should think about everything from more traditional obstacles they have had to overcome to the small predicaments that have inspired them to think about what they really value.

Applicants can and should also consider this prompt from an aspirational perspective: What kind of change would you like to make in the world? How do you think you can positively contribute to a cause that is important to you?  If you had the power to make a lasting impact in any area at all, what would it be? It is important that the problem you choose is linked to your life and world in a meaningful way. Remember, the whole purpose of this exercise is to reveal something valuable about you to admissions.

**Question 5:**

A formal event or accomplishment might encompass anything from obvious landmarks like birthdays and weddings, to achievements like earning an award. More informal examples might include something as simple as meeting a special person in your life.

Answer with originality and put a unique twist on your subject matter. What were the moments in life that fundamentally changed you as a person? When did you learn something that made you feel more adult, more capable, more grown up?

The most important thing to keep in mind when searching for these moments is that element of transition and transformation. The event or accomplishment you discuss should be something that helped you understand the world around you through a different, more mature lens.