

Application Essay #1

**Must be handwritten and uploaded to the online application before submission.
Application Deadline is March 15 of the applying year.**

Read the poem carefully. Then, in a well-written essay propose and defend an interpretation of an idea or universal truth conveyed by the poem.

A well-written essay includes the following:

1. An arguable assertion or statement about an implicit truth or idea suggested by the sounds and meanings of the words on the page. DO NOT merely summarize, paraphrase, or rewrite the entire poem "in your own words."
2. Carefully selected evidence from the poem—words and phrases, literary devices (simile, metaphor, alliteration, rhyme, meter, etc.) to support your interpretation. Your evidence will be comprised of direct quotations, when the precise and exact words make your point more convincing, and short paraphrases of lines that are relevant to your interpretation.
3. Thorough explanations of how the evidence supports your interpretation. Each quote or paraphrase should be incorporated into your own sentence explaining its relevance to your argument.
4. A conclusion that makes a logical connection between your proven interpretation and a related idea also evident in the poem and supporting evidence from it for the connection you are making. Be sure that your conclusion IS NOT a summary or reiteration of the evidence already presented in the body of the essay.

Reread and revise your essay looking first for weaknesses in logic, in your evidence, and in your expression or word choices. Do your ideas flow logically and smoothly, from one point to the next?

Reread it again to look for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Shakespeare's Sonnet 18: "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Application Essay #2 – Topical Consideration

Must be handwritten and uploaded to the online application before submission. Application Deadline is March 15 of the applying year.

First, consider the following series of questions:

An old adage claims that “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” What is beauty? Does it emerge primarily (even solely) from the subjective perceptions of the individual, or does it originate outside the beholder? On the other hand, what makes something ugly? Why might different people disagree on the beauty of an object?

Now develop a formal, multi-paragraph essay following these guidelines:

1. Describe something beautiful which you have encountered in your life experience and studies – a work of art, a piece of music, a landscape, a literary text, an event or person in history, a liturgical ceremony, even an idea or system of thought. Explain precisely what makes this object remarkable and beautiful.
2. As a counterpoint, discuss something ugly which you have encountered, and explain what makes this object ugly.
3. Based on your examples and analysis, propose a definition of beauty and explain why different people often find different things beautiful.

Reread and revise your essay looking first for weaknesses in logic, in your evidence, and in your expression or word choices. Do your ideas flow logically and smoothly, from one point to the next? Do you discuss specific examples and details? Do you follow all the guidelines?

Reread it again to look for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.