**Common App essay Topics – Any one - Please write an essay (250-650 words) on the topic selected.**

1. 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.

2. 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?

3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

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 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.

5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

**Southern Methodist University**

1. SMU appeals to students for a variety of reasons. Briefly describe why you are interested in attending SMU and what specific factors have led you to apply. (250-word limit)

2. SMU is a diverse learning environment shaped by the convergence of ideas and cultures. How will your unique experiences or background enhance the University, and how will you benefit from this community? (250-word limit)

**Ohio State University**

No essays

**Indiana Bloomington - This essay may be used in scholarship consideration.**

Describe your academic and career plans and any special interest (for example, undergraduate research, academic interests, leadership opportunities, etc.) that you are eager to pursue as an undergraduate at Indiana University. Also, if you encountered any unusual circumstances, challenges, or obstacles in pursuit of your education, share those experiences and how you overcame them. (200-400 words)

**Michigan State University: Any one topic**

As part of the undergraduate application for admission, each applicant is required to submit a personal statement of up to 400 words on one of two designated topics. This statement may be considered as a positive factor to enhance admissibility, as well as for scholarship consideration. These are the personal statement topics on the 2017 application for admission:

1. Michigan State University recognizes that an assortment of interests, viewpoints and life experiences are important in student learning and enhance the university community. Describe an experience, passion or characteristic that illustrates what you would contribute to the MSU community and how this will add to the overall richness of campus life.

2. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?