

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- ① Read Section 2 (Primary Core Value: **Merchant**) and Section 3 (Secondary Core Value: **Innovator**) of your **personal assessment**. *Pay special attention to the characteristics pointed out in the description of your Primary Core Value which in your case is **Merchant**.*

 **Write down the traits that resonate strongly with what you know about yourself.**

Merchant Traits (ex: visionary, connector, relational)

Innovator Traits (ex: curious, problem solver, observant)

- ② Read Section 4 (Uniqueness: **Creative By Nature**) and note the ways in which you are unique. *This is important because it speaks directly to your strengths and can illustrate something 'meaningful' about you.*

 **Write down two of your strengths.**

_____ and _____

 **Write a sentence about how you are unique (illustrate something meaningful and important about you).**

- ③ Read Section 5 (Learning Styles: **Creative**) and notice the ways you learn best as a **Merchant**.

 **Write a list of the top 3 styles that accurately describe your learning experience in school.**

- ④ Read Section 6 (Challenges: **Creative**) and take time to consider the challenges you will face.

 **Write down some challenges you have experienced and how you overcame or dealt with them.**

SELECTING YOUR ESSAY QUESTION/PROMPT

1 Review the 7 essay questions/prompts from Common App. (2017/18)

 **Select 1 of the 7 essay questions/prompts (or any specific college's supplemental essay) that immediately resonates with you.**

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.

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?

Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

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.

Discuss an accomplishment, event or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

Describe a topic, idea or concept you find so engaging that 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?

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.

Remember to answer the question/prompt you have selected in your essay below.

2 Once selected, take the next 10-15 minutes answering your question.

Remember this is a rough draft, so don't worry about perfection. Focus on getting the key points of your story together.

 **Write a short paragraph that tells your 'story' as it relates to the question.**

Share any type of story, a description of a significant conversation, a time when you realized something personally important, or anything that truly and vividly demonstrates who you are.

REVIEWING ESSAY AND INTEGRATING ASSESSMENT

- ① This is where you begin to put it all together. Using the Assessment Notes on **Page 1**, expand on the story you wrote on **Page 2**. *As you review your story, note any instances where your Merchant or Innovator characteristics, traits, uniqueness, learning styles, or challenges came into play.*

 Take a look at these 'Tips' as they relate directly to you as a **Merchant/Innovator** and should be helpful in crafting your essay.

AS A MERCHANT

You make connections with people, the world, and your team or group. You have a sense of what your mission should look like and you work hard at nurturing yourself and others toward that goal.

KEY WORDS

- Visionary
- Optimistic
- Connector
- Intuitive
- Relational

AS AN INNOVATOR

You pursue knowledge and facts and apply them to the process of discovering solutions, systems, and processes.

KEY WORDS

- Observant
- Curious
- Patient
- Problem Solver
- Ideas and Options

 Expand on your 'story' trying to integrate your key words mentioned in the Tips above.

Perform a 'word count' of your essay and make sure you don't exceed the 650-word maximum for the Common Application Essay.

- ② Now you're ready to craft your final draft. Read through your rough draft and make sure the story is easy to follow. Remember this is a story about you, so make it personal. Admissions staff enjoy reading real-life accounts

 Write a sentence to introduce yourself and why you chose this question.

Check to make sure the essay flows. Look for transitions between thoughts and write a concluding sentence that ties it all together.

Closely check grammar and spelling.

Review with your parent, English teacher, or school guidance counselor to read what you've written. Consider their suggestions and make changes where appropriate.

HINT: To stand out, essays do share a few common features:

- Answer the question asked in the prompt.
- Showcase positive traits or characteristics from the assessment.
- Sound like a high school student, not your parent's voice.
- Illustrates something 'unique' and 'meaningful' about you.
- Demonstrates your personal reflection when answering the question.



Now you're ready to submit your essay into the Common Application or college-specific application system. Use the same process for any supplemental essay requests.