

<u>Common App Prompts</u>	1st idea	2nd idea	3rd idea
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.	Playing piano, waking up early to practice, playing before the Guild, playing at Ensworth and Harpeth Hall	Always been really interested in writing, write weekly letters to my grandmother, wrote songs 3rd grade "Pink Satin", etc.	Growing up on a farm, fishing, picking apples, riding horses, being a Southerner
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?	Dropped the baton in the 4 x 100 regional track meet and got kicked off the relay, run starts up the hill in the rain, etc.	Getting a D on my 4th grade science HW and having that galvanize me to work harder in science, AP Chem, shadowing various physicians...	Habitat for Humanity, how it seemed impossible to build a whole house!, how we built it piece by piece, weekend by weekend...
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?	Was raised in fundamentalist Protestant church tradition, started asking hard questions about women's roles...	Magically minded kid, read fantasies, huge imagination, then learning more in school about scientific method, making sense of those...	My sis left for college, really changed my world, was always in her shadow, tied to her, suddenly space for me, and space to be closer to her
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?	Shadowing a pediatrician, cardiothoracic surgeon, endocrinologist, etc. over summers and winter breaks; thought it was all about the science and learned it was all about stories and relationships	My brother gave me a used camera for my birthday, which opened my world to photography and how I see the world. It was the best present I have ever received.	My English teacher's essay edits. At first they really hurt – I thought I was a good writer. The year was long but over time, I realized that I became a much deeper thinker and writer. Thanks, teacher.

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.	Getting involved with <i>Hallmarks</i> , the lit magazine, becoming an editor, growing as a reader/writer	Making Varsity track as a 9th grader, running w/ Kate, Mary, etc., learning what it takes to train at that level, winning State	Being president of Eccowasin (intramural club) and leading the class in Step Singing, etc. (connecting w/ other groups on campus)
6. 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?	Legos. There is something mesmerizing about the way blocks can join in a myriad of ways, all with either the same goal or sometimes you can go rogue and build random structures with no purpose. The world is your Lego!	Fungus. Why does it grow? Where does it grow? How can it both be so essential and yet devastating to human life? How it is that it surrounds us at all times and yet is so completely unnoticed? This challenges and disturbs me.	Smiles. There are so many kinds: kind, generous, duplicitous. Smiles start and end conversations, days, friendships. Sure, teeth help, but a good smile extends through the face and into the connection. I love it.