

STUDENT WRITING PROMPTS

The Essex School application requires that each applicant write two compositions—a *short answer* and an *extended essay*. Please select and respond to one short answer prompt and one extended essay prompt, word processing each of your responses on separate sheets of paper. Please title both compositions (titles do not count against your word limits) and type your full name in the top right corner of all pages. Should your extended essay response continue beyond one page, please number all pages, but **do not staple** them. Submissions will be evaluated on originality, depth of introspection, and uniqueness of thought. The selection committee will strictly observe the word limitations. Please retain a copy of your compositions, as applications will not be returned to students.

Short Answer Prompt (Respond in 150 words or less):

Describe a time either in your personal or school life when you encountered adversity. Share strategies you utilized in resolving this problem in order to overcome this adversity.

Or

Describe a topic/interest in an area/issue about which you are most passionate. How will this passion propel you to make a difference?

Extended Essay Prompt (Respond in 500 words or less):

In considering your academic career, identify and describe a problem/question/challenge (i.e., mathematical, scientific, or other) that you have encountered. Describe the problem-solving process you employed. How can you apply this approach to promote future learning and achievement?

Or

Describe yourself as a learner. What are the specific skills and attributes that allow you to be successful? With this understanding, what profession(s) interest you in the future? Explain.

Upon completing your compositions, please forward one copy of each—along with a hard copy of your completed **Student Information Form**—to the district representative coordinating your application process.