

This is for your **reference** only. All Honors College applications must be submitted electronically. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Honors College Application Essay – 2018

All Honors College applicants must complete this essay in 450-500 words.

The essay is an important part of your HC application and should represent your polished writing. While many college admissions essays invite you to share a personal story, the HC essay has a different focus: it asks you to demonstrate your critical thinking skills. In 450-500 words, provide your perspective on the issue raised in the prompt. The essay as a whole should address the specific and substantive question(s) posed. In evaluating your response, we will consider your writing skills and ability to think deeply and creatively.

“There is the hidden presence of others in us, even those we have known briefly. We contain them for the rest of our lives, at every border we cross.”

Michael Ondaatje, *Divisadero* (London: Bloomsbury, 2007), p. 16

The presence of others can have an influence in a variety of works and disciplines. Previous works can provide inspiration, and sometimes foundations, for future creators, thinkers, innovators, and leaders. For example, contemporary social activists and political figures have described Martin Luther King as a source of great inspiration in the field of social justice. J.K. Rowling has discussed how her work draws on the Narnia chronicles by C. S. Lewis. Marie Curie’s work with radium inspired Ernest Rutherford’s experiments that led to the theory of atomic disintegration. American rapper Kendrick Lamar cites Tupac Shakur as a profound influence on his own work, writing, and relationship to his community.

After considering Ondaatje’s quote and the variety of examples above, write an essay in which you:

- 1) Select one individual* whose work reflects the “presence” or influence of another, and describe how that individual built upon or extrapolated from the pre-existing works, methodologies, techniques, products, or ideas of their influence.
- 2) Examine the significance of that influence and analyze how it changes or enhances the process or outcome.

***Note:** Please do not select yourself or a personal anecdote as the topic for your response. The best response will offer a unique and specific example that will stand out among the many essays the admissions committee will review.