

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

## 2017 Honors College Application Essay Question

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

Note: 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. You may choose to use personal examples as supporting evidence, but 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.

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“Adaptation is the art form of democracy.”

Deborah Cartmell, *A Companion to Literature, Film, and Adaptation*

By calling it “the art form of democracy,” Cartmell suggests that adaptation is broadly accessible and can be used by many different people to many different ends. The concept of adaptation can be applied in art forms like film or music as well as in business, science, engineering, psychology, and other fields. It is not unique to humans; a variety of organisms, objects, entities, and systems also exhibit adaptation.

Choose one specific example of adaptation to examine as a case study. Your essay should 1) briefly explain what is being adapted and how, and 2) analyze in detail how the adaptation changes the meaning, purpose, and/or function of the original.

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Before responding, read all of the instructions above carefully. Consider both the specific meaning of “adaptation” and the wide range of possible examples, from antibacterial resistance to *Game of Thrones* to artificial intelligence. Rather than using one of those, however, identify an example that interests you and provides a strong basis for your analysis.

If you have questions contact us at [honors.college@oregonstate.edu](mailto:honors.college@oregonstate.edu) or 541-737-6400