The Honors College would like to better understand your perspectives, contributions, qualifications, and diverse talents. When responding to each of the prompts below, keep in mind that Oregon State University and Honors College employees are required by law to report reasonable suspicion of child abuse to law enforcement or the Oregon Department of Human Services per ORS 419B.005. Other knowledge of illegal activity may also be reported by OSU or the Honors College, pursuant to other reporting requirements.

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Honors College Essay Question:

“I try to show what it is about language and music that enthralls, because I think those are the two elements of poetry.” – Rita Dove

Drawing insights from the connection of multiple subjects or perspectives is the basis of interdisciplinary thinking, a central part of the Honors College curriculum. In the quote above, the poet Rita Dove observes that poetry gets its particular power from the combination of language and music. Choose something that is important to you, identify two of its components, characteristics, features, or attributes, and write an essay in which you examine how the two parts work together to make an outcome that is uniquely meaningful or important.

Be creative with this! “Something” can be anything – you can choose an academic subject, concept, activity, or a passion of yours. Successful responses will offer a unique and specific perspective that will stand out among the many essays the admissions committee will review.

All Honors College applicants must complete this essay in 450-500 words. This essay is an important part of your HC application and should represent your best writing. While many college admissions essays invite you to share a personal story, this HC essay has a different focus: we ask you to respond effectively to the prompt above. We will evaluate your writing skills and ability to think deeply and creatively.