



Thrive Scholars 2025-2026 Essay and Short Answer Questions

**Essay and short answer questions are found on page 9 of the application.*

Your essay helps us to assess your writing ability and is an important criterion in our evaluation process. Please take the time to submit a well-developed and thoughtful essay. We encourage you to write several drafts and to elicit feedback from someone you trust. Also, be sure to carefully check for correct spelling and grammar.

NOTE: If you are writing in an external editor such as Google Docs or Word, please make sure to copy and paste as text only to ensure compatibility with our system.

Essay Choices

Please respond to **ONE** of the following essay prompts (650-word maximum):

- 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.
- 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?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- 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?
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 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?

Short Answer

Max: 350 words

- How has your own background influenced the types of problems you want to solve, the people you want to work with, and the impact you hope you have on your community?
(Max: 350 words)