University Honors College Application Essay – 2016

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

Note: The essay is an important part of your UHC application and should represent your polished writing. While many college admissions essays invite you to share a personal story, the UHC 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.

“We are all connected. To each other, biologically. To the earth, chemically. To the rest of the universe, atomically.” — Neil deGrasse Tyson, “Symphony of Science: We Are All Connected”

Question: In the passage above, Tyson describes how humans and the world are linked in ways that are essential yet not necessarily obvious. For your essay, choose two things—objects, concepts, constructs, or phenomena—that may not always be associated with each other but do connect in a meaningful way. Write a response that 1) analyzes the detailed connection between those two things, and 2) explains how that connection is significant.

Read all of the instructions above carefully before responding. Brainstorm potential connections that might not be obvious but could be meaningful—for instance, what does poetry have to do with cell phones? Social justice with dinosaurs? Finance with neurons? Rather than using one of these examples, however, identify an interesting connection of your own.