School of Global Studies Essay Requirement

Essay Prompts: (Select Two)

1. Describe a time when you faced a significant challenge or obstacle. What steps did you take to overcome it, and what did you learn about yourself in the process? How has this experience shaped the person you are today?
2. If you could create a new course for high school or college, what would it be about, and why do you think it's important? What topics or skills would you focus on, and how would they contribute to your development or the development of your peers?
3. Think about a moment in your life when you had to take a stand on an issue you were passionate about, even if it was unpopular or difficult. What motivated you to act, and what was the outcome? How did this experience influence your understanding of courage and conviction?
4. Tell us about a time when you were out of your comfort zone. What did you learn about yourself and the world around you in that situation? How has this experience influenced the way you approach new challenges or opportunities?
5. Describe an idea, belief, or concept that you once held but have since changed your mind about. What prompted you to re-evaluate your perspective, and how has this shift in thinking affected your personal growth or outlook on life?
6. If you could have a conversation with any person—past or present, real or fictional—who would it be, and why? What would you want to learn from this individual, and how do you think this conversation would impact your future goals or ambitions?
7. Discuss an experience or achievement that has helped you define who you are today. How did this experience influence your values, aspirations, or the way you see the world? What steps will you take to continue growing in this direction?
8. Write about a topic that sparks your curiosity or excites you to learn more. What draws you to this subject, and how has your passion for it shaped your academic or personal pursuits? How do you envision this interest playing a role in your future?
9. Reflect on a time when you collaborated with others on a project or initiative. What was your role in the group, and how did you contribute to its success? What challenges did you face working as a team, and how did the experience shape your views on leadership and cooperation?
10. The lessons we take from failure can be as valuable as those from success. Recount a time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience that you wouldn't have learned otherwise? How has this lesson guided your actions since then?

Tips for writing a strong personal essay:

- **Understand the Prompt**: Carefully read the essay prompt to ensure you fully understand what is being asked. Identify the key elements of the question and focus on addressing them in your response.

- **Use a Strong Hook**: Start with a compelling introduction that grabs the reader's attention. This could be a vivid memory, a thought-provoking question, or an insightful quote that ties into your main idea.
- **Be Honest and Authentic**: Write from a place of honesty. Your personal response essay should reflect your genuine thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Don’t say what you think the reader wants to hear; instead, share your true perspective.
- **Show, Don’t Just Tell**: Use descriptive language and specific examples to illustrate your points. Rather than stating how you felt, show it through your actions, thoughts, or dialogue to make your experiences more relatable and vivid to the reader.
- **Organize Your Thoughts**: Structure your essay clearly with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Each paragraph should focus on a specific idea or aspect of your response, making it easy for the reader to follow your train of thought.
- **Reflect on Your Experience**: Go beyond merely recounting what happened. Analyze how the experience affected you, what you learned from it, and how it has influenced your beliefs, behavior, or future decisions.
- **Develop a Clear Voice**: Your writing voice is your unique style of expression. Be mindful of how you phrase your thoughts, aiming for a tone that is confident, reflective, and engaging. Let your personality shine through in your writing.
- **Revise and Edit Thoroughly**: After writing your initial draft, take the time to revise and refine your essay. Look for places where you can make your ideas clearer, eliminate unnecessary details, and correct any grammar or spelling errors.
- **Seek Feedback**: Before submitting your essay, ask a teacher, friend, or family member to read it and offer constructive feedback. Fresh eyes can catch mistakes or suggest improvements that you might not have noticed on your own.