

DAAPS Application Writing Sample and Prompt Options

Purpose

Writing is central to the DAAPS program. Throughout the four-year experience, you will write in many different ways. As you grow as a writer, you'll receive instruction and feedback to strengthen your voice, your thinking, and your craft.

The writing sample included in this application gives us a first look at your current writing abilities. We pay close attention to sentence structure, organization, depth of thought, and control of language and mechanics. This piece helps us understand your readiness for the kind of thoughtful, evidence-based writing expected in DAAPS.

Expectations

- Respond thoughtfully and fully to **one** of the prompts below.
- Your response should be **at least 450 words** and show clear thinking, organization, and attention to detail.
- Your writing must be **your own original work**. Do not submit work created or edited by teachers, tutors, peers, parents, or artificial intelligence tools.
- Any submission found to be plagiarized or generated by AI will result in disqualification from the application process. All submissions will be reviewed using an originality checker.
- The quality of this writing sample, both in content and craftsmanship, will weigh heavily in our selection process. Take your time, revise carefully, and submit your best work.

Please complete your writing sample in a **Google document** so that it can be easily uploaded with your application.

Prompt Options

Option 1

Some ideas or stories feel true the first time you encounter them, as if they put into words something you already knew but could not say. Write about a book, film,

piece of music, historical event, or any other source that felt that way to you. What did it name or clarify, and why do you think it landed the way it did?

Option 2

Some things that matter a great deal receive very little attention, while things that matter less seem to get most of it. Write about something you think is underappreciated or misunderstood, and make a case for why it deserves more careful attention. Draw on specific evidence from whatever you know best.

Option 3

History and literature are full of moments where people had to choose between what was easy and what was right, or between loyalty to a group and loyalty to their own conscience. Write about one such moment, real or fictional, and explore what it reveals about how people make hard decisions. What does that moment still have to teach?

Option 4

Think about a book, film, piece of music, or other work that you think is especially well made. What specific choices did the person who created it make, and how do those choices produce the effect the work has on you or on its audience? Your goal is not just to say that you love it, but to explain how it works and why those choices matter.