At the University of Washington, we consider the college essay as our opportunity to see the person behind the transcripts and the numbers. Some of the best statements are written as personal stories. In general, concise, straightforward writing is best and good essays are often 300 to 400 words in length.

**Important Suggestions for the Writing Section:**
- Content is important, but spelling, grammar and punctuation are also considered. Proofread, proofread, proofread!
- We recommend composing in advance, then copying and pasting into the application. Double-spacing, italics and other formatting will be lost, but this will not affect the evaluation of your application.
- We’ve observed most students write a polished formal essay, yet submit a more casual short response. Give every part of the writing responses your best effort, presenting yourself in standard, formal English.
- Write like it matters, not like you’re texting. This is an application for college, not a message to your friend.

**A. Essay (Required)**

**PROMPT:** Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it. (Maximum length: 500 words)

**B. Short Response (Required)**

**Maximum length: 300 words**

Prompt: Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the University of Washington.

*Tip: Keep in mind that the University of Washington strives to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences, values, and viewpoints.*
C. Additional Information About Yourself or Your Circumstances (Optional)

**Maximum length: 200 words**

You are not required to write anything in this section, but you may include additional information if something has particular significance to you. For example, you may use this space if:

- You have experienced personal hardships in attaining your education
- Your activities have been limited because of work or family obligations
- You have experienced unusual limitations or opportunities unique to the schools you attended

D. Additional Space (Optional)

You may use this space if you need to further explain or clarify answers you have given elsewhere in this application, or if you wish to share information that may assist the Office of Admissions. If appropriate, include the application question number to which your comment(s) refer.

E. Activities & Achievements (Required)

Identify up to five of your most significant activities and achievements during grades 9-12. In a few bullets or sentences, indicate your contribution.

**Maximum length: 50 words for each activity, 5 total activities**

You may include activities, skills, achievements, or qualities from any of the following categories:

- Leadership in or outside of school-e.g., athletics, student government, cultural clubs, band, scouting, community service, employment
- Activities in which you have worked to better your school or community
- Exceptional achievement in an academic field or artistic pursuit
- Personal endeavors that enrich the mind, e.g., independent research or reading, private dance or music lessons, weekend language/culture school
In addition to these general application essays, all UW Academy applicants must also complete the required UW Academy Application Essay. This essay helps us to understand your motivations for seeking out early college entrance. Use this essay to explain your reasons for applying and to demonstrate your readiness for this accelerated path in ways that other parts of your application did not.

**DIRECTIONS**
Write an essay in response to the following prompt. **Maximum length: 500 words.**

*College is not High School. But what do YOU think are the most significant differences between these two learning environments? Which of these differences are most important to you in your reasons for seeking early entrance? What specific experiences have prepared you to handle the various changes and challenges that come with entering into college, as you imagine/understand it?*

**Tips:**
- Use this essay to tell us more about yourself! When writing your UW Academy Application Essay, make sure that your topic and examples are distinct from the personal statement and short essay you wrote for the UW Freshman Application.
- You may define these differences in a variety of ways: academic, social, cultural, personal, or all of the above. Show us that you can think critically and creatively about what it means to enter college.
- You may decide to talk about challenges you have faced in the past. This is fine choice for this essay, but if you talk about challenges or struggles, be sure to also explain what strategies you have used to respond to them.