**2025 WRITING ENTRY PROMPTS**

**Writing Entry Prompt 1.** Storytelling is an integral part of the formation of our identities because, author J.K. Rowling says, “the stories that we love best do live in us forever.” The stories that our parents and communities tell us about themselves and the world form our first map of the universe. **Write about and share with us a story that you tell, a story that you (and your family) will be retelling for years to come, or a story that your mind wrote in a dream.** Hint: the story must be your own, and its telling should have significance to you. What is important to us is the inspiring ideas behind the chosen story and what they reveal about you.

**Writing Entry Prompt 2.** As a part of a local committee, you have been asked to write a letter inviting a political candidate to spend a day in your hometown where you will host and lead the candidate on a tour of the town. **Write an invitation letter sharing your reasons for the invitation, why the candidate should engage with the local community, and how the community will benefit from the visit.** Hint: Consider how taking part in your proposed tour will help the candidate become a stronger leader for all constituencies and what the local community will gain from such event.

**Writing Entry Prompt 3.** Notable Kentucky contemporary writer Wendell Berry has stated “Nobody can discover the world for someone else. Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond and we cease to be alone.” **Using an issue important in the life of your community (small or big community), discuss the validity of this quotation in terms of your sense of belonging and discovering.** Hint: Choose a specific issue rather than a generic one and incorporate your ideas in support of a balanced or a radical approach.

**Writing Entry Prompt 4.** Every positive change, every jump to a higher level of awareness, every time to ascend to a higher rung on the ladder of personal trajectory involves a period of transformation. **Describe an experience that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood. What did you learn from this transition?** This could involve your culture (“rite of passage”), an incident in your community or family, or even a revelation of skills, ideas, life lessons, etc. Hint: Do not spend most of your entry on the details of your experience; what is important to us is your insight into the lessons you learned and/or knowledge you gained.

**Writing Entry Prompt 5.** In the middle of life’s hectic schedule, inspiration comes to us from the sweetest sources, including our childhood filled with wonderful fairy tales and fun cartoon characters. **Choose a profound quote you’ve heard from a cartoon character and share with us why you find it wonderfully motivating, powerful and encouraging as it illustrates a specific moment, experience or event in your life.** Even though some of them are short and concise, reflect on the difference the chosen quote has made in your thinking. Hint: Do not spend most of your entry providing an interpretation, summarizing the background, or establishing a context for the quote. What is important is your understanding and how the quote affected your worldview.

**Writing Entry Prompt 6.** J. Robert Oppenheimer said “Science is not everything, but science is very beautiful.” The same concept could be applied to the humanities and the arts. **In your view, why is it important that scientists appreciate the humanities, and humanists and artists understand the importance of science and technology in today’s world and in the future?** To discussyour view, choose a specific recent technological, mathematical, scientific, humanistic or artistic development or discovery that supports this assertion. Hint: Do not spend most of your entry describing the development or discovery; rather focus on the cross-sectional benefits to you and the younger generations and how you envision the potential multi-perspective approaches in the future.