

THE HONORS PROGRAM ESSAY – INSTRUCTIONS

As a part of the online application to the GGC Honors Program you are asked to write and upload a personal essay of at least 500 words responding to one of the quotes below. While you may write more than 500 words, it is not necessary. We are more interested in quality than quantity!

Select one – just one – of the quotes below and write an essay responding to, exploring, and/or explaining its meaning and significance **to you**.

You might choose to agree or to disagree with the quote you select. Or, perhaps, you would prefer to discuss its meaning and significance to you in terms of your past experiences, your present circumstances, or your future hopes and goals. Perhaps you have a different angle in mind, and that's okay, too, as long as it includes a personal essay responding to the quote. We are not seeking a research paper, so don't treat this essay as one. Instead, consider it an opportunity to explore and share some facets of yourself and your ideas.

FORMATTING

- Include your contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number) in the header of each page of your essay.
- Include the full quote to which you are responding on the top left-hand side of the first page.
- Give your essay a title.
- All other formatting choices in terms of font, spacing, margins, etc. are yours to make as you please.

TIPS

- *Be yourself and use your own voice!* You are welcome to use “I” in your essay and need not adopt a highly formal tone.
- Don't be afraid to have fun with this or to take some risks.
- Proofread your essay carefully before submission. There's a difference between breaking “the rules” intentionally and breaking the flow with typos. One can be great while the other will make people groan. Avoid the groans.

SUBMITTING YOUR ESSAY

- Save your essay as either a Word or a PDF document.
- Upload your essay in the appropriate, designated spot in the [Honors Program Online Application](#).

THE QUOTES

1. *"Be what you would seem to be – or, if you'd like it put more simply – never imagine yourself not to be otherwise than what it might appear to others that what you were or might have been was not otherwise than what you had been would have appeared to them to be otherwise."* (The Duchess from Lewis Carroll's ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND)
2. *"The thing that doesn't fit is the thing that is most interesting."* (Richard Feynman)
3. *"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."* (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
4. *"It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."* (Mark Twain)
5. *"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you fail by default."* (JK Rowling)
6. *"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."* (Steve Jobs)
7. *"'Tis to create, and in creating live a being more intense that we endow with form our fancy, gaining as we give the life we image..."* (Lord Byron)
8. *"If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."* (General George S. Patton)
9. *"Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real."* (Niels Bohr)
10. *"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."* (Nelson Mandela)
11. *"Well-behaved women seldom make history."* (Laurel Thatcher Ulrich)
12. *"If you want to make enemies, try to change something."* (Woodrow Wilson)
13. *"Not the cry, but the flight of a wild duck, leads the flock to fly and follow"* (Chinese Proverb)
14. *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."* (Sir Winston Churchill)
15. *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."* (Margaret Mead)

16. *"It's technology married with liberal arts, humanities, that yields us the result that makes our heart sing."* (Steve Jobs)
17. *"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."* (Henry David Thoreau)
18. *"Call the world if you Please 'The vale of Soul-making.' Then you will find out the use of the world"* (John Keats)
19. *"Lead from the back — and let others believe they are in front."* (Nelson Mandela)
20. *"You should remember that the division of knowledge into sciences and humanities is a false one. Both are parts of the great adventure of the human mind, and both should always be cultivated side by side. That is something which should never be forgotten."* (Sir Cyril Hinshelwood)
21. *"The first duty of the university is to teach wisdom, not a trade; character, not technicalities."* (Sir Winston Churchill)
22. *"A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."* (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
23. *"Who are YOU?" said the Caterpillar.*

This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation. Alice replied, rather shyly, "I—I hardly know, sir, just at present— at least I know who I WAS when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then." (From Lewis Carroll's ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND)