



Preparing for Your Essay

Directions: Use the following questions to help write your response to the prompt.

Step 1: Identifying your essay topic		
Prompts	Supporting Questions	My Notes
What way can you contribute to your community? How might others view this problem or opportunity differently?	Do you have skills or talents that can contribute to your community? Do you have a passion you can share? Are there resources in your community you can help organize?	
What are the ways you can approach this issue?	Can you start a business? Organize an event? Coordinate with volunteer organizations or your local government? Start a fundraiser?	
What is your idea or recommendation?	State your idea clearly and how you hope to bring it to life.	



2. Preparing your evidence		
Prompts	Supporting Questions	My Notes
What sources provide supporting evidence or examples for your idea or recommendation?	How do you know this is an issue for your community? What information can help you define the issue? What information tells you that your solution may work?	
How might members of your community or neighborhood bring your idea or recommendation to life?	Who can you connect with in your community? Business leaders? Members of government? Members of voluntary associations like Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Chambers of Commerce, faith groups, or non-profit organizations?	
Who might oppose your idea? How might you respond?	Will your idea face opposition? Will it cost your community money or resources? Are there competing organizations or ideas for solving this issue?	



Thinking About Principles

Directions: Review the principles listed in your student guide. Think about the definitions, questions, and examples provided for each and how it might work with the idea you have to address your community challenge. Write 1-2 sentences about how it relates, or doesn't relate, to your idea. Then rank the principles from 1 (only relates a little bit) to 5 (relates a lot) to help choose at least one principle to include in your essay.

Principle	How does this principle relate to your idea?	Ranking
Consent of the Governed		
Rule of Law		
Separation of Powers		
Federalism		
Private Property		



Directions: Now repeat the process above, but this time with Civic Virtues.

Virtue	How does this virtue relate to your idea?	Ranking
Humility		
Integrity		
Moderation		
Respect		
Responsibility		