

Application Essay Question and Guiding Points

Essay Question: WSOS values Scholars who demonstrate resiliency, initiative and follow-through. We know students are more likely to succeed in their program and careers when they have these qualities.

Think about a significant experience that challenged you, academically or personally. In 500 words or fewer, tell us:

- What was the challenge?
- What did you do to overcome the challenge?
- What did you learn about yourself as you faced the challenge?

This essay should inform reviewers of the applicant's:

- Ability to overcome challenges
- Ability to navigate and utilize resources or support to overcome the challenge
- Mindsets about obstacles as growth opportunities rather than roadblocks

Here are examples of topics and supporting evidence a student could include to earn maximum points for the essay portion:

- A student is the first person to pursue a college degree in their family. Since their sophomore year, they have been working 12 hours a week as an elementary school tutor and helps take care of their young siblings while their parents are working. This student shares that they find it challenging to find time to begin the college application process. They talk about how they talked to their counselor and college admissions advisors, saved their money they earned to fund their college visits and learned ways to fund their education. The student has learned the benefits of how talking to the right folks can help pave the way to achieve their goal.
- A student has identified that writing is their weakness and is failing their composition class. They talked to their professor and asked for resources that will help them improve their performance in the class. In addition, they took the initiative to practice their writing skills and started a daily journal. By the end of the term, they were able to turn their failing grade to a passing grade. Through this experience, the student has learned to strengthen their weakness by asking for help.
- A student identified a school discipline policy that caused a disproportionate number of students to be suspended, which made it more difficult for those students to stay on track in their classes. The student ran for student council so they could help change the policy, but wasn't elected. However, the student did not give up. They organized a small group of students who came up with a proposal for changing the policy. Together, these students met with the assistant principal to advocate for their strategy. Since then, the school administration came to a compromise and plans to change the policy. This experience reinforced this student's sense of determination and empowerment