**Model**

1) What invention would the world be better off without and why? (Kalamazoo)

2) *The Hungry Soul: Eating and Perfecting Our Nature*, by Dr. Leon Kass, take a philosophical look at what food, eating and table manners have to tell us about our humanity. Compose an essay about a memorable meal you have eaten. We are especially interested in the details: the occasion, your company at this meal, its physical setting, the kinds of food you ate, or the preparation. (University of Chicago)

**Personal Narrative Writing**

**College Essay Application**

**8th Grade English**

Please format your assignment as follows:

* “Standard” font
* 250-500 words
* Single-sided
* Double-spaced
* Personal pronoun (“I”) is permitted

Your response should be as *descriptive* as possible (within the word limit). Pick ONE of the following:

**Regular Eighth Grade English**

1) What have you undertaken or done on your own in the last year or two that has nothing to do with academic work? (Northwestern University)

2) If you had the power to change three things in your community or in the world, what would you change and why? (Middle East Technical University, Turkey)

3) If you could go back and change one day in your life, what would you change and why? (Santa Clara University)

4) Discuss how a specific place can be used to help illustrate your personality.

5) Look through old family photos and pull out a few that remind you of important times or significant moments. (Remember that the impact of a moment is what makes it significant. A hike through the woods can sometimes be more significant than a birthday.) Choose one of those moments to describe and explain its significance to you. Write about the photograph and your feelings about what you see in it.

**Self Select**

1) It has been said (by Andy Warhol) that “in the future everyone will be famous for 15 minutes.” Describe your 15 minutes. (New York University)

2) If you were to describe yourself by a quotation, what would the quote be? Explain your answer. (Dartmouth)

3) You’ve just written a 300-page autobiography. Send us page 217. (University of Pennsylvania)

4) Jean-Paul Sartre said, “Hell is other people,” while Barbra Streisand sang, “People who need people are the luckiest people in the world.” With whom do you agree? (Amherst College)

5) “… I was eager to escape backward again, to be off to invent a past for the present.”

* *The Rose Rabbi* by Daniel Stern

**Present:** pres-ent

Something that is offered, presented, or given as a gift.

Let’s stick with this definition. Unusual presents, accidental presents, metaphorical presents, re-gifted presents, etc. – pick any present you have ever received and invent a past for it.

(Inspired by Jennifer Qin, University of Chicago Class of 2016)