

## Free Write Exercises to Help Identify Themes and Components of Your Essays

Note: these are inspired by free writes used by creative writers. These are based on free write prompts developed by writer and educator Nancy Au ([peascarrots.com](http://peascarrots.com))

Brainstorm. For each prompt, write as many words or phrases as come to your mind. Don't stop to think! Don't stop writing! Just get any words you can down on the page.

1. Your favorite science classes (anytime, K-12 or college).

2. Topics from those classes that have stuck with you. Things you learned or experienced that you will never forget.

3. When a friend or relative asks you what you learned in college, you tell them:

4. Examples of scientific research you've heard about that excites you (don't worry about names, just write anything you remember about the topic of the research):

5. The people in the world I most admire, and why? (make a list)

6. My family or friends are proud of me because I...

7. The biggest struggles I have had to overcome while in college are:

8. I want to grow up to be the type of person who....

9. If you could spend one year of your life, with virtually unlimited resources, going anywhere and doing anything to conduct scientific research, it would be:

10. Aspects of science that you've learned about, but you've always wanted to learn more about. Scientific concepts that don't quite make sense, and you wonder "what about..." or "yes but why does it work that way?"

11. There should be a research institute in \_\_\_\_\_ that you would work for that does research on \_\_\_\_\_ and advocates for \_\_\_\_\_.

12. The things that I am most proud of about my college career are...

13. In ten years, I want to be...

14. I feel most like my true self when I....

15. One thing that I wish all of my professors knew about me....

16. When I was young I wanted to grow up to be....

17. The first time I really felt like I could contribute new knowledge to science or society was...

18. One time I really felt like had excelled at something was....