Application Essay and Short-Answer Prompts

Short-Answer Questions - Answers should be 250 words or fewer.

Short-Answer Question #1: Hillsdale’s classical liberal arts curriculum teaches students “the best that has been thought, written, and said” throughout Western history and across disciplines. How do you hope this approach to education will prepare you for life after college?

Short-Answer Question #2: Since its founding in 1844, Hillsdale College has aimed to develop the minds and improve the hearts of its students. How will your partnership in our community aid us in this work?

Essay - Please respond to one of the following in 650 words or fewer.

1. Hillsdale College considers itself a trustee of modern man’s spiritual and intellectual inheritance tracing to Athens and Jerusalem, a heritage finding its clearest expression in the American experiment of self-government under law. Hillsdale students study timeless, centuries-old wisdom and what it means to live by it.

   What have you inherited? How does that inheritance manifest itself in your life?

2. The Hillsdale College Honor Code asks students to be “honorable in conduct, honest in word and deed, dutiful in study and service, and respectful of the rights of others.” These habits, and the education that accompanies them, help students rise to “self-government.”

   Using personal experience, or historical, literary, or artistic examples, discuss the necessary connection between virtue and a self-governed life.

3. Discuss how an event or circumstance, literary or artistic work, or personal experience has significantly influenced your life.

4. What is good character and why is it important? You may cite examples from literature, the arts, science, politics, history, athletics, business, education, or your personal experience.