

The Chicago Academy for the Arts

Admissions Essay Prompts

Essay Instructions:

All applicants must respond to **three** essay prompts. Please be sure to use clear structure and organization to develop your ideas fully. Whenever possible, provide an example or explanation to support your claims. You may upload your essays to your [Application Portal](#) in PDF format.

Please be sure to add your name, the grade you are applying for, and the prompt you are responding to at the beginning of each essay.

Required Prompt for All Applicants: Your response must be a minimum of **350 words**.

• What makes a piece of art "good" is an ongoing debate. Some believe the artist's intentions are what matter. Some think the audience's emotional reaction is most important. While others claim the piece's formal attributes are the key to judgment. Which factor or factors do you think contribute to a "good" piece of art? Why? How would you explain or defend this opinion to someone who disagrees? (If it helps, feel free to use a piece of art as an example/test case in your essay.)

Prompts for 8th Grade Applicants: Choose **two** prompts from the list below and respond in full. Your responses must be a minimum of **350 words**.

1. Describe a significant experience, an achievement, or failure in your life and its effect on you. What did you learn from the experience?
2. The Chicago Academy for the Arts community is like a family and a place where many call "home." We foster a culture of inclusion and diversity. What qualities or characteristics do you possess that will contribute or add to the Academy culture? Explain how you would contribute or add to the community.
3. Why are you applying to The Chicago Academy for the Arts? What will you contribute to our student body?

Prompts for Transfer Applicants: These prompts are for students currently in high school. Choose **two** prompts from the list below and respond in full. Your responses must be a minimum of **350 words**.

1. Taking a risk comes more easily to some than others, but for most, it will be an important part of your journey. Explain a risk you have taken in your life that has paid off—exploring something new, confronting a fear or problem, or taking a stand on an issue.
2. The Chicago Academy for the Arts community is like a family and a place where many call "home." We foster a culture of inclusion and diversity. What qualities or characteristics do you possess that will contribute or add to the Academy culture? Explain how you would contribute or add to the community.
3. Why are you applying to The Chicago Academy for the Arts as a transfer student? What will you contribute to our student body?