

NUS College Essay Question AY2023

Write an original essay of **no more than 600 words** responding to one of the following prompts. Please indicate which question you are answering. Please also use new paragraphs where appropriate to present your writing clearly; ample space has been provided.

Not only should your essay be original, but we urge you not to reuse essays you have written for other occasions and purposes. Your response to the prompt should give us some insight into you and your thought processes. In particular, we are looking for you to be analytical and reflective. Though you should respond to the prompt you've chosen, you can do so using any subject or example, and that subject can come from any discipline (whether the humanities, social sciences, sciences, etc). If you do choose a technical subject, you should write about it using more generalist language; as a whole, you should assume an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

1. There is probably a topic or subject (anything from a film or TV programme, to a scientific theory) that you enjoy. But is there an idea or topic that you enjoy *analysing*? Conversely, is there a subject that you found yourself enjoying *less* after you had analysed it? Do you generally think that analysis and enjoyment go hand-in-hand, or are they at odds?
2. Online, some people post their thoughts and experiences and often end by asking a variation of this question: "Anyone else, or just me?" Conversely, one of the more popular subreddits on the social media site Reddit prompts people to express their "unpopular opinions" (although, in response, there is often a debate about whether that opinion is truly unpopular, and there is also the paradox whereby the most popular unpopular opinions get upvoted). What is either the most popular or unpopular opinion you have? Do you think "popularity" matters, or should matter, when it comes to opinions and arguments?
3. "There's no such thing as a stupid question." Tell us why you agree or disagree with this. In either case, analyse a question you have asked, have heard someone ask, or just one you can imagine, that shows you that there are or aren't stupid questions. Why is or was the question stupid/not stupid? What makes a question stupid?