

WRITING SUPPLEMENT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

WRITING QUESTIONS

What single activity listed in the activity section of your Common Application are you most proud of and why?

The one activity I am most proud of in the entirety of my Common Application is my completion of Savannah College of Art and Design's (SCAD) Rising Star program. Rising Star is a five-week pre-college program in which attendees have to go through a college admissions process, be accepted, and then complete two rigorous courses that, if passed, count as ten hours of college credit.

I am most proud of this because it required me to travel more than 1,000 miles away from home, live on a college campus, and complete two rigorous college courses. After exceling in the two classes I specifically chose to align with my desired major, I feel truly qualified to continue pursuing my career in film, because it gave me the needed confidence to move forward.

List the titles of the required readings from courses during the school year or summer that you enjoyed most in the past year.

- All the Pretty Horses
- Heart of Darkness
- Pride & Prejudice
- What We Say Goes

- As I Lay Dying

List the titles of the books you read for pleasure that you enjoyed most in the past year.

- The Autobiography of Malcolm X
- The Thorn Birds
- The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.
- Deterring Democracy
- Various short stories by William Faulkner

List the titles of the print, electronic publications and websites you read regularly.

- Al Jazeera (International & America)
- The Atlantic
- The New Yorker
- USA Today
- VICE
- TIME
- The Verge
- National Geographic
- Politico
- The Associated Press
- NPR News
- Popular Science
- Popular Mechanics

- The Independent

List the titles of the films, concerts, shows, exhibits, lectures and other entertainments you enjoyed most in the past year.

- Various bands last summer at the Panther Island Pavilion in Fort Worth, TX

- Hayes Carll concert

- Daughter from Đà Nẵng documentary

- Radiolab radio show

- Birdman film

- This American Life radio show

- Helvetica documentary

Please tell us what you find most appealing about Columbia and why.

For me college is not and never will be the end goal, it is a vessel to utilize to further one's personal knowledge base to live a fulfilling life. I believe Columbia is the vessel where I can achieve that best.

I am ready to break free of the predictable homogeneous bubble that is my semi-rural suburban life to feel the open air of opportunity in New York City. Not only will I benefit from instruction at the esteemed Columbia University School of the Arts, but also I will have the opportunity to pursue my studies in a challenging setting that offers a college experience immersed in vibrant city life.

Furthermore, Columbia supports a richly diverse campus, with a core curriculum that leaves room for students to begin learning in their desired major during their first year. These favorable circumstances will put me on the path to achieving my goals. In return, I am offering Columbia a prepared and diligent intellectual who is primed to continue my studies in film.

For applicants to Columbia College, please tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the field or fields of study that you noted in the Member Questions section. If you are currently undecided, please write about any field or fields in which you may have an interest at this time.

I celebrated my fifteenth birthday at The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. When I walked in, the first thing I saw was a bright neon sign that read "negro sunshine." I was deeply intrigued. This intrigue led me to discover the artist Glenn Ligon. On that day, I experienced Ligon's "AMERICA" exhibition, a series of over 100 works that would change my perspective and influence my life goals.

Growing up in the suburbs of North Texas, I do not see an abundance of black culture. Therefore, the museum hallways filled with stark images of gracefully posed black bodies held my attention. In addition, the black and white canvas that screamed "WE ARE THE INK THAT GIVES THE WHITE PAGE A MEANING" commanded me to see my skin in a new light. Glenn Ligon's portraits of Malcolm X begged me to know exactly what my people had gone through to inspire such sensationalist views of Black American culture. After viewing the exhibition, I felt robbed; as if some entity snatched away knowledge that was rightfully mine, and I wanted it back. While culture always interested me, it never occurred to me that the school in charge of my education was withholding knowledge about my own heritage.

Ligon inspired me to research black societal movements beyond my history textbook, and then eventually the history of cultural movements across the world. This inspired my love for political science and anthropology, both subjects that analyze the administration and interactions of different peoples. Most importantly, the exhibition inspired me to pick up a camera to start documenting the world around me. I realized media is the ultimate tool of influence, and if I can wield it to show societies their own power against injustice, then I have the utmost moral obligation to do so.

Are you planning to submit any supplementary materials?

Uploaded document attached

Supplementary material
Anais Arceneaux Donald

Home address	3808 Wellsburg Way, Fort Worth, TX 76244
Date of birth	April 16, 1997
High school	Northwest High School (NHS), 2301 Texan Drive, Justin, TX 76247

Creative Accomplishments

Type	Title	Description
Short film	“FUGUE”	Produced, directed, and edited a film about one man’s rapid descent into a state of dissociative fugue
Poem	“Writing in Times New Roman”	Wrote a poem about a girl who finds solace in typing in a plain font, and it was published in Teen Ink magazine
Stage Director	Throwback Thursday, and Poetry Slam and Dance Jam	For two years in a row, managed all creative aspects of the speech and debate team’s annual talent show fundraiser
Music video	“Undoing”	Submitted as final film project for a college-level film class
News packages	Various	Produced numerous one to three minute segments about events happening at NHS, for broadcast on NHSTV , the school’s television station
Weekly segment	“Happening Now”	Produced, directed, edited, and hosted a weekly segment about current events
Promotional film	“Book Revolution”	Produced, directed, and edited a film promoting Northwest Independent School District’s (NISD) #N2RDG reading program
Promotional bulletin board	“We Can Do It”	Used graphic design skills to create a bulletin board that correlated our SkillsUSA chapter’s excellence with the Rosie the Riveter campaign
Short story	“MOM”	Wrote a short story about an event from childhood

Film and Television Studies

Level	Place	Description
Pre-College	Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Rising Star Summer Pre-College Program	Completed 10 hours of college coursework in film and computer applications, earning a 3.5 GPA
High School	Academy of Media Arts and Technology (AMAT)	Currently a fourth-year student pursuing studies in film and television

Selected Awards

Award	Event	Description
1 st Place	SkillsUSA regional tournament	Placed in two categories: Promotional Bulletin Board and Extemporaneous Speaking
1 st Place	Promotional short film contest	Created a film promoting Tidwell Middle School to prospective students
1 st Place	Ryan HS Speech and Debate Tournament	Won overall in Lincoln-Douglas Varsity Debate
Excellence Award	Night of Excellence Award Ceremony 2014	Received the Excellence in Debate Award from NHS’s Speech and Debate Coach
Outstanding Debater	Cameron University Speech and Debate Camp	Awarded for attending all clinics, demonstrating hard work, and entering camp with the least knowledge and exiting with the most

Extracurricular Activities and Volunteer Work

NHS Speech and Debate Team: <i>Captain for two years</i>	The BIG Event: <i>Community clean-up</i>
Philosophy Club: <i>Secretary</i>	KNON 89.3 Pledge Drive: <i>Pledge-taker</i>
Student Television Network (STN): <i>Sweet 16 Contest</i>	Mission Arlington: <i>Canned goods sorting</i>
Harvard Nat’l Forensics Tournament: <i>Competed three years</i>	Westlake Academy Harvest Festival: <i>Helper</i>
Destination Imagination: <i>Competed for five years</i>	National Technical Honor Society (NTHS)
SkillsUSA: <i>Vice President for one year</i>	National Honor Society (NHS)
CA Donald, Anais CEEB: 443715 Fall 2015	Pretty Smart Girls: <i>Angels Charity Fashion Show model</i>
University of Texas Debate Camp: <i>Lincoln-Douglas (LD) 3</i>	FYRD CAID: 13434089