

In the interest of learning more about your motivation and capability, the North American Studies Admissions Committee asks that you choose one of the following tasks, either Cultural Studies (A) or Literary Studies (B).

Please write a concise, sharply focused, well-crafted essay of 1,000-1,500 words about one of these topics! (Note: This essay serves as your writing sample. No alternative topics are permitted.)

Task A: Cultural Studies

Critically discuss the significance of Frederick Jackson Turner's notion of the frontier for a contemporary understanding of US national identity!

Task B: Literary Studies

Analyze and interpret the following poem (2025) by Henri Cole!

TIME AND WEATHER

Now the spell is broken. A gold light traces
a line across the sky, which had been so dark,
without a cloud to be seen from one horizon
to the other. Now darker emotions dissolve.
Violence seems dumb. Things that were come back.
A red bird circles around a bush. A woman ties
the sandal of a child. A new president speaks
not of power but of our souls. Likewise,
the grass upon the mountain trembles
greener, reproducing itself while struggling
against human rivals. A friend asks,
"When do we leave for happiness?" Friends
are better than guns. This morning, I eat
warm corn bread with butter and jam. I walk.