

EducationUSA Canada Essay Writing Exercise #2 Themes and Stories

Themes and Stories:

THEMES	STORIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstract ideas • Adjectives that describe you • Beliefs you hold • Outcomes you desire (like a certain career path or hope for society) • Things in your life that are important to you • Identity and background 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete narratives • Specific details that bring a theme into focus • A vehicle for making your point (AKA an example) • A good story illuminates your themes without you having to spell them out

Themes are the things that you want the admissions officer to know about you after reading the essay. THE WHY.

The story is the way you deliver your message. THE WHAT.

Examples:

THEMES	STORIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First generation Canada who lives in Ottawa from Chinese background • Athletic, stubborn, quiet, friendly • Interested in global politics • Love board games • Mentored by grad student in robotics • Care about helping kids with developmental disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep diving into global news led to connecting with local politicians on climate change. Serving on Youth Council. • Launched non-profit to help kids with developmental disabilities. Lessons learned about leadership and creating community project. • How I got into Dungeons and Dragons and life lessons learned from it.

In the table below, summarize the notes from your brainstorm. Do your best to identify Themes and Stories and place them in the appropriate column.

THEMES	STORIES