

Ocoee High School AICE Academy Application- Written Response

Instructions and helpful hints

The writing portion of this application is a very important part of our evaluation process. The Cambridge AICE curriculum requires students to write effectively. Students who are admitted to the AICE program will sit for college level exams beginning in their 10th grade year which are hand-written, essay-only exams. Therefore, students will be writing at an advanced high school level frequently throughout their studies to prepare them for their examinations and studies beyond high school. Writing coherently, cohesively, and constructively distinguishes our program from other accelerated programs and is part of what makes our graduates better prepared to succeed at the university level.

Please select ONE topic and write a thoughtful, multi-paragraph formal essay responding to the prompt completely.

Here are some hints to help you succeed with the writing portion of your AICE application:

- As you are being asked to write an essay, do not write a two or three sentence answer.
- Each essay prompt is designed to let you express yourself creatively. You are encouraged to give some real thought to your answer and take the prompt you choose seriously.
- As these are personal reflections, you may use “I” and speak in the first person for this essay. However, this is still a formal writing sample, so you must refrain from using conversational style or tone. For example, do not use texting abbreviations (lol, tl;dr), slang, or begin sentences with “Well,...”.
- Handwriting is important, especially as Cambridge examinations are hand-written exams graded by teachers, many overseas. Not everyone has great handwriting, but you must make every effort to write legibly. If your handwriting still looks like it did in elementary school, you may want to practice writing on college ruled paper to learn to write smaller, neater sentences.
- Basic writing conventions are important. Write a rough draft and then edit. Do not submit an essay which looks like a rough draft. Do your best to avoid run-on sentences or fragments.
- Write in blue or black ink only. Essays written in colored ink will not be reviewed.

Prompt #1: Cambridge AICE is a rigorous college preparatory program. Why are you interested in the Cambridge AICE program and what qualities do you hold that will enable you to be successful? Please include some of your personal goals for your future and how the Cambridge AICE program will help you make these goals your reality.

Prompt #2: A principal belief at Ocoee High School is that a well-rounded education includes academics and extracurricular activities. What extracurricular activity(ies) do you feel is/are most important for you to participate in and why? How will you manage your academic load and your extracurricular interests?