

Transformation Writing Challenge

Reading: [Travels, by Michael Crichton](#).

Please write an essay that explains how you have grown over the course of the last ten weeks. I'm not going to tell you exactly how much to write, but I would like to see you demonstrate the ability to reflect in writing. Being self-aware and communicating what you've learned in writing is a skill that will be useful for the rest of your life, from writing cover letters to performance reviews.

The questions below are meant as prompts, and you shouldn't answer all of them specifically. In fact, writing a paragraph in response to each question would be a terrible essay. These questions are meant to inspire you, and by the end of the essay the reader should have answers to some of these questions.

1. What were your goals when you first arrived? What are they now and how have they changed? Was there a specific moment that incited this change?
2. How has your capacity to learn changed since you were in school?
3. Has your time here helped you to narrow your scope by focusing on specific pieces of what excites you? Or to broadened your knowledge over a diverse number of engaging topics? Whether you feel you've become more broad or more deep, which do you think serves you best and why?
4. How has curiosity played a role in your growth over the last 10 weeks? Are you more capable of listening to yourself and what truly interests you?
5. Do you have any hiccups that are holding you back from focusing on what you want to do? Status? Money? Stability? Confidence? Expectations?
6. What are a couple new intellectual concepts and ideas that you learned over the last ten weeks that have affected you most?
7. How did living with new people from different parts of the world in a new city impact you? What were some challenges? what were some benefits? what are a few take aways you got from the experience?
8. Do you think your friends and family back home will think of you differently now? Why?
9. Is your worldview shifting? Has knowledge of past and/or present ideologies and eras helped to contextualized you and your life? has this contextualization help you to identify what you value?
10. In Travels, the author relates to specific people who helped him learn about himself and the world. Who are a few specific people that you met in San Francisco (excluding UnCollege staff) that changed your thinking or impacted you in some way? (This could be a person you had a long conversation with or someone who you interacted with for just five minutes.)