

Essay Question and Instructions

for September Entry (Early Admission) 2026

Essay Question

This is a list of short passages quoted from different academic fields. Please select two of them and elaborate your own idea that examines these two viewpoints from one perspective. Also, please explain, based on classes at your high school or other equivalent institutions, or other personal academic experiences, why you choose these two passages and explain how your choice can be related to your future studies at SILS, citing specific course examples*.

*Course examples can be referred from the following websites : <https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA101.php?pLng=en>
https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/students/registration/#anc_26

1. "The older I get the more I'm convinced that it's the purpose of politicians and journalists to say the world is very simple, whereas it's the purpose of historians to say, 'No! It's very complicated.'"
(Cannadine, David. "A Certain Kind of Greatness." Interview by S. Barbara. The Atlantic, January 22, 2003.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/unbound/interviews/int2003-01-22.htm>)
2. "Lifelong learning is a form of social behaviour; it is a continuous process and enhances educational, social and personal choices as well as personal and social relations. Higher education and universities provide the "groundwork" for lifelong learning, the "springboard" for entering the world of work, and a major transformational experience which offers learning opportunities in the best and broadest educational sense. "
(Larissa Jõgi, Katrin Karu and Kristiina Krabi, "Rethinking Teaching and Teaching Practice at University in a Lifelong Learning Context", International Review of Education 61:1, 2015, p.63)

3. “Calculation of power without a moral dimension will turn every disagreement into a test of strength.”
(V Henry Kissinger, “World Order: Reflections on the Character of Nations and the Course of History”, Penguin Books, 2014, p.367)
4. “Metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action. Our ordinary conceptual system, in terms of which we both think and act, is fundamentally metaphorical in nature.”
(George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, “Metaphors we live by”, The University of Chicago Press, 1980, p.3)
5. “Science is built up of facts, as a house is built of stones; but an accumulation of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones is a house. Most important of all, the man of science must exhibit foresight.”
(Henri Poincaré, William John Greenstreet (tr.), “Science and Hypothesis”, Dover Publications, 1952, p.141)
6. “Learning what the problem is IS the problem. ”
(Horst W. J. Rittel, “The Reasoning of Designers”, Proceedings of the International Congress on Planning and Design Theory in Boston, 1987, p.2)

Instruction

- Write your essay of around 800 words in English.
- Your essay is a chance to explain yourself to the school and should be completed by yourself. Using generative AI to create this document and presenting it as your own work may be considered as cheating and could affect the evaluation of your application.
- We will not accept any inquiries regarding the essay prompt.

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