



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

***Connecting College Essays and Psychosocial Student
Development Theory: The Transformational Experiences
First-Year Students Have Already Experienced***

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1. Psychosocial Student Development Theory
2. Undergraduate Admissions Review Process and The Common Application
3. Research Method and Data Analysis
4. Essay Snippets: Tying Vectors and Themes
5. Takeaways & Discussion



To 22333

Text GUSTAVOSTILL789

Are you happy to be here today?

Yes

94%

No

6%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80%

What area of the University do you represent in your service to First Year Students?

“Gustavo univers

3 days ago

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“Honors & Scholars”

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“College of Arts and Sciences”

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“Admissions”

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“Student

activities and

leadership

development”

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“Engineering- Diversity”

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“Academic advising”

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“Honors & Scholars an

ineering”

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“Recruitment”

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“Admissions”

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“Outreach and

Recruitment”

3 days ago



**PSYCHOSOCIAL
STUDENT
DEVELOPMENT THEORY**



“A sequence of developmental tasks and stages confronted by adults when their biology and psychology converge, and which qualitatively change their thinking, feeling, behaving, valuing, and relating to others and oneself. Psychosocial development focuses on the personal and human development of students in relation to their age, peers and environment.”



**UNDERGRADUATE
ADMISSIONS REVIEW
PROCESS AND THE
COMMON APPLICATION**



- 1) Application for admission
- 2) Application fee
- 3) Official high school transcripts
- 4) Official ACT or SAT scores

Source: <http://undergrad.osu.edu/apply/freshmen-columbus/apply-step-by-step>



- Undergraduate college admission application that allows applicants to apply to any of the 695 member colleges.
- Advantages for students ...
 - Connect to more institutions across the world
 - Work smarter and enter your information one time to be used at multiple schools
 - Stay on track with the system sending several reminder emails about important dates and deadlines
 - Streamline recommendation letters for students

Source: <http://www.commonapp.org/>



- **We evaluate each applicant in terms of 10 criteria**, which are meant to measure the merit of academic achievement as well as personal interests, talents, accomplishments and challenges.
- **We review each application thoroughly.** To arrive at the most appropriate admission decision, each application is reviewed by at least two members of the admission committee.
- **We evaluate each applicant holistically.** We don't select applicants based on any single criterion. All criteria are considered as part of our review of the whole person.

Source: <http://undergrad.osu.edu/apply/freshmen-columbus/who-gets-in>



1. Successful completion of the minimum college prep requirements
2. High school performance (class rank and GPA), including participation in accelerated programs like Honors, AP and IB; Ohio State does not have minimum requirements for class rank or GPA
3. Standardized test score (ACT or SAT); Ohio State does not have minimum requirements for ACT or SAT scores
4. **Ability and desire to contribute to and engage with a diverse campus community**
5. **Experiences that demonstrate leadership or engaged involvement (e.g., co-curricular activities, work experiences or military service)**
6. Status as a first-generation college student
7. **Demonstration of outstanding talent in a particular area**
8. Academic competitiveness of the high school
9. **High school performance if adversely affected by physical, mental or learning environment factors**
10. Eligibility for and likelihood of benefiting from organized support services at Ohio State

Have you ever reviewed the essay portion of the Common Application after submission from a student?

Yes

62%

No

38%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50%



The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you **distinguish yourself in your own voice**. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you **apart from courses, grades, and test scores**? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

Please write an essay (**250- 650 words**) on the topics elected. You can type directly into the box, or you can paste text from another source.



- 1) Reflect on a time when you **challenged a belief or idea**. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

- 2) The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you **experienced failure**. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

- 3) Describe **a problem you've solved** or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

- 4) Some students have a **background, identity, interest, or talent** that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

- 5) Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your **transition from childhood to adulthood** within your culture, community, or family.



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RESEARCH METHOD AND ANALYSIS



1. Determining sample size:

Au 16 Enrollees = 7,885

Confidence level = 95%

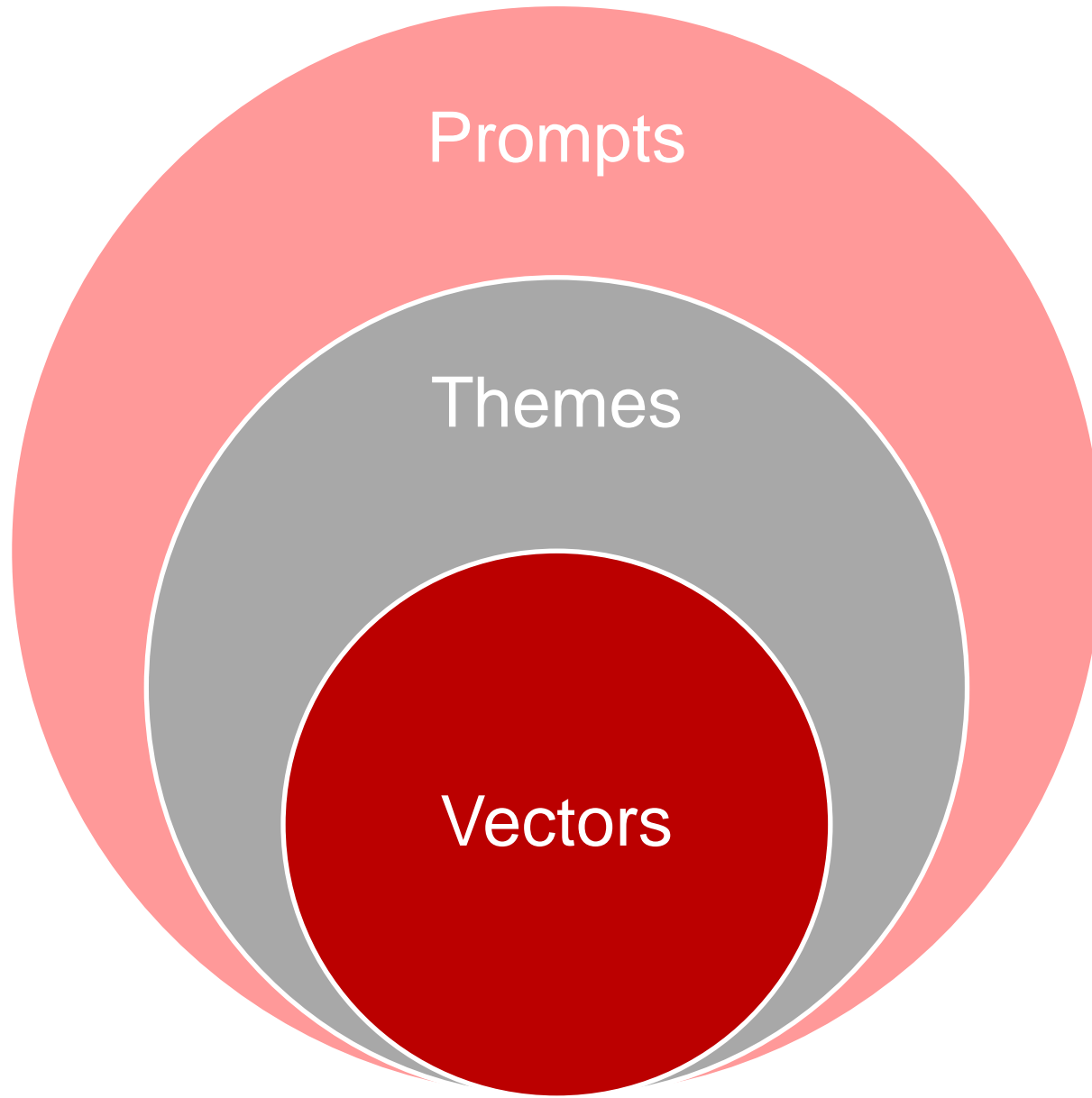
Confidence interval = 6%

Sample size needed = 258

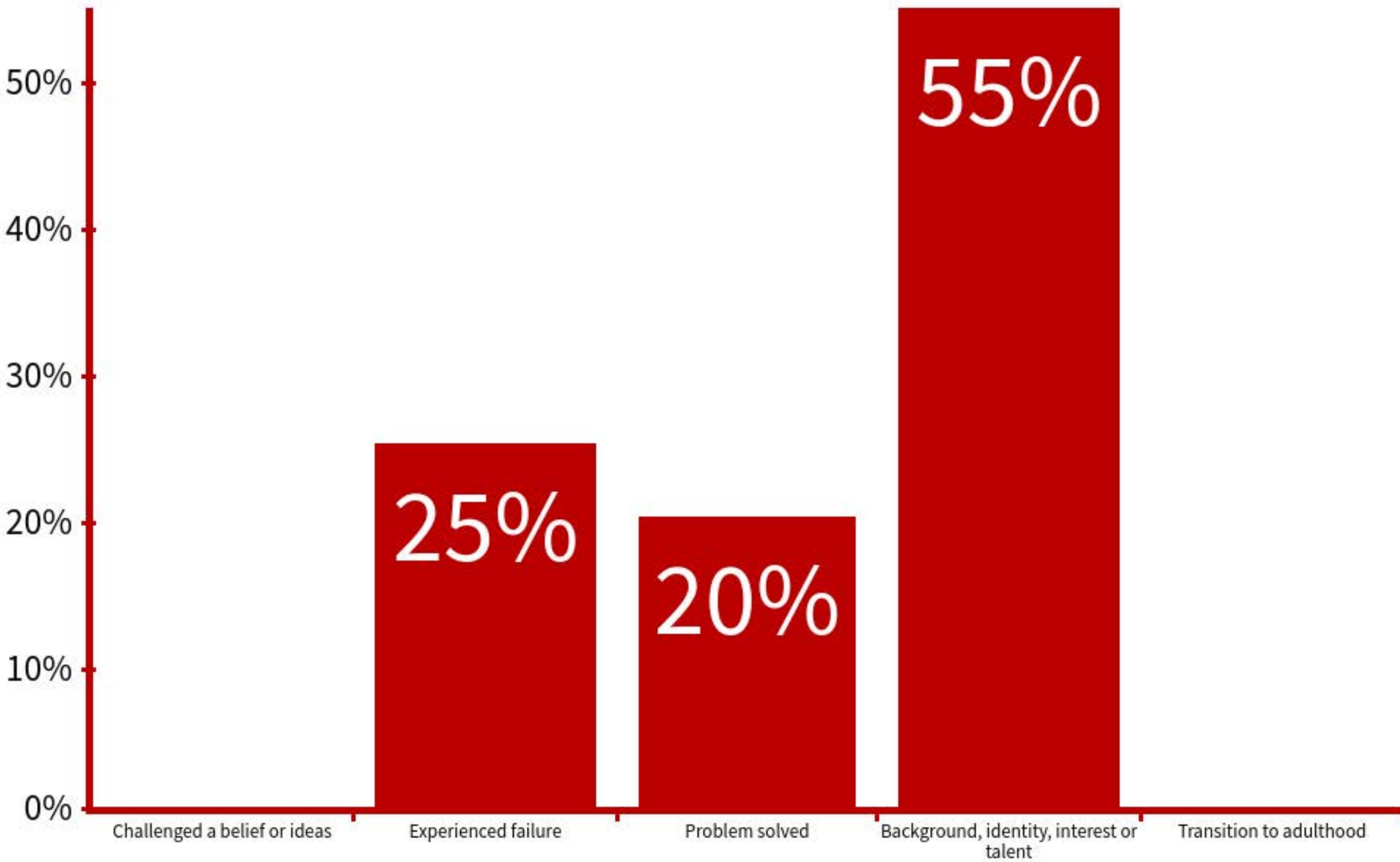
2. Sampling method:

Random sorting of student IDs of Au16 enrollees.

Selection of 258 records for review.

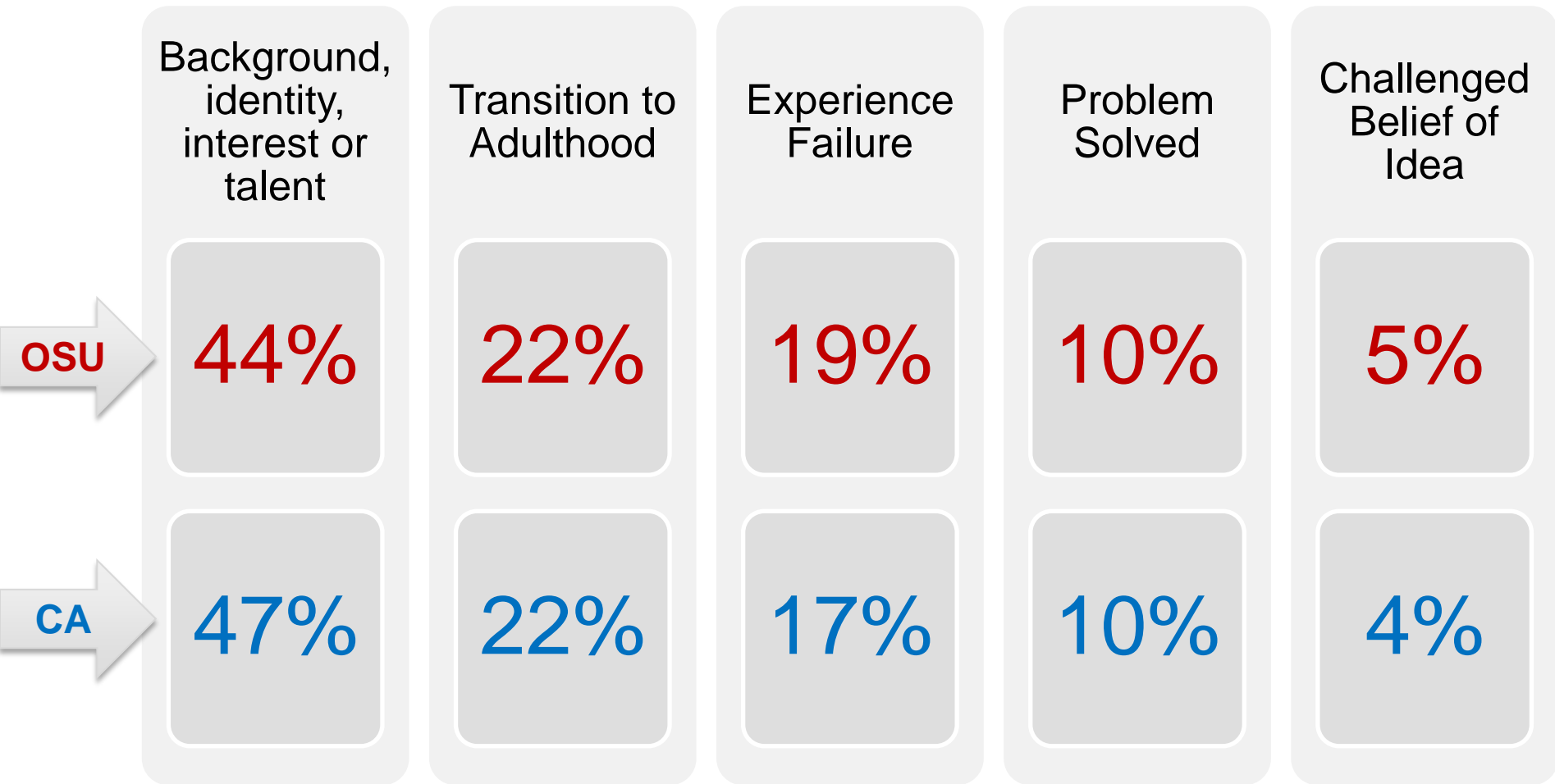


Which essay prompt do you think OSU students selected the most?

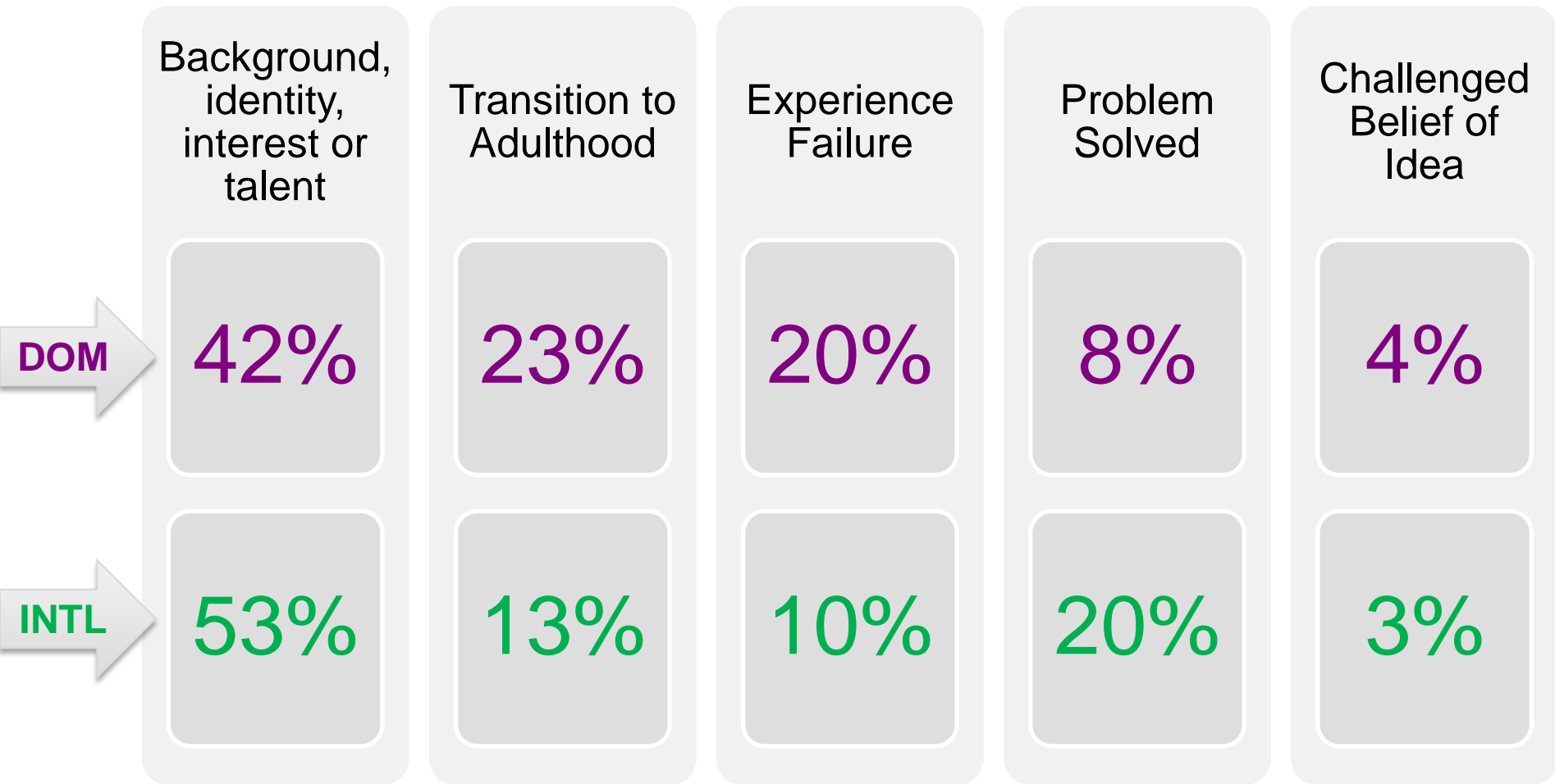




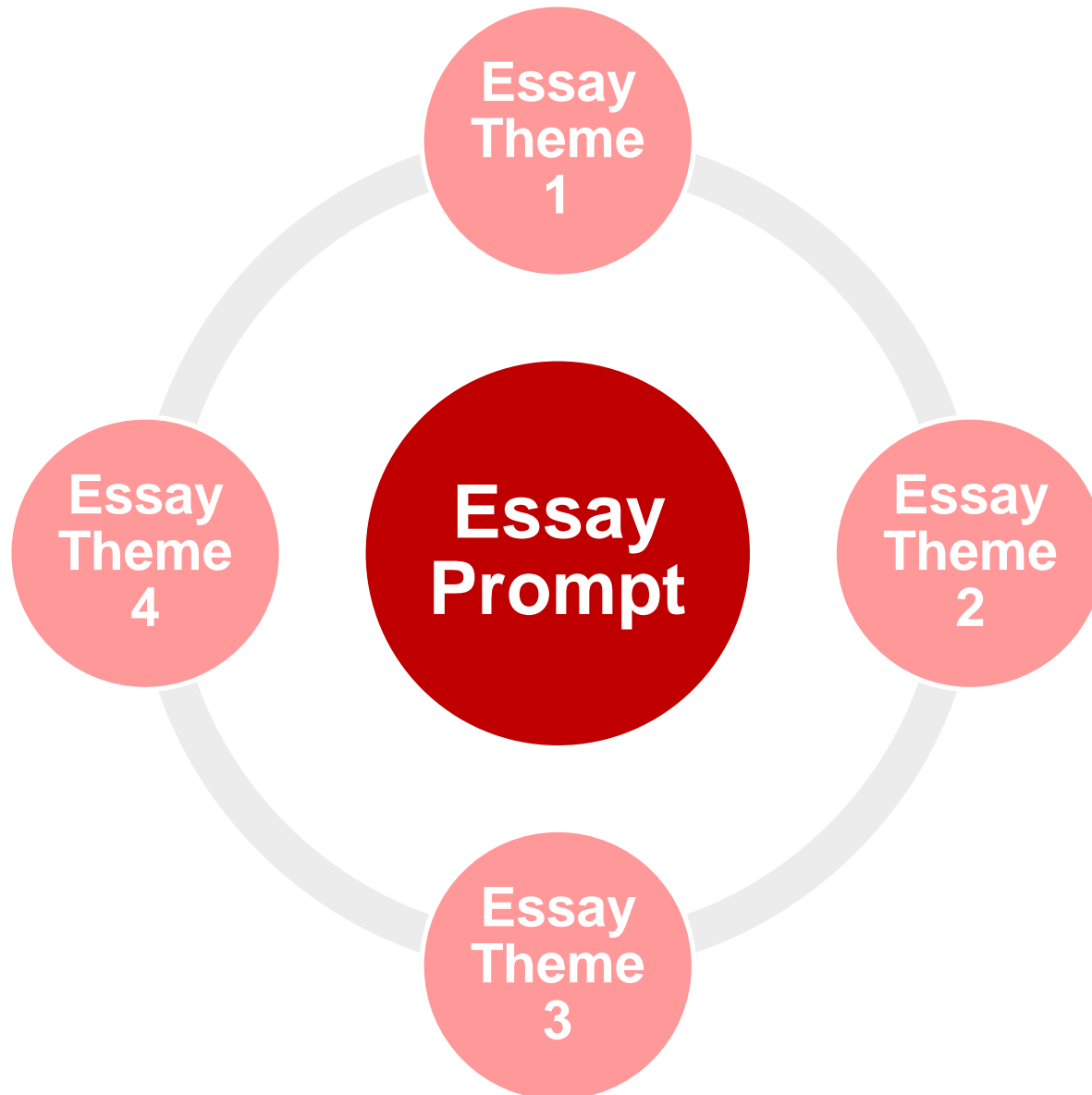
1. Background, identity, interest or talent – 113 | 44%
2. Transition to adulthood – 58 | 22%
3. Experienced failure – 50 | 19%
4. Problem solved – 24 | 10%
5. Challenged belief of idea – 11 | 5%



Source: <http://www.commonapp.org>



Source: The Ohio State University - OESAR



Now that we know what essay prompts students are selecting, what themes do you think students are addressing in their essays? Please use ONE WORD in your response.





Academics

Experiential Learning

Extracurricular

Athletics

Home Environment

Death / Illness (others)

Transition & Moves

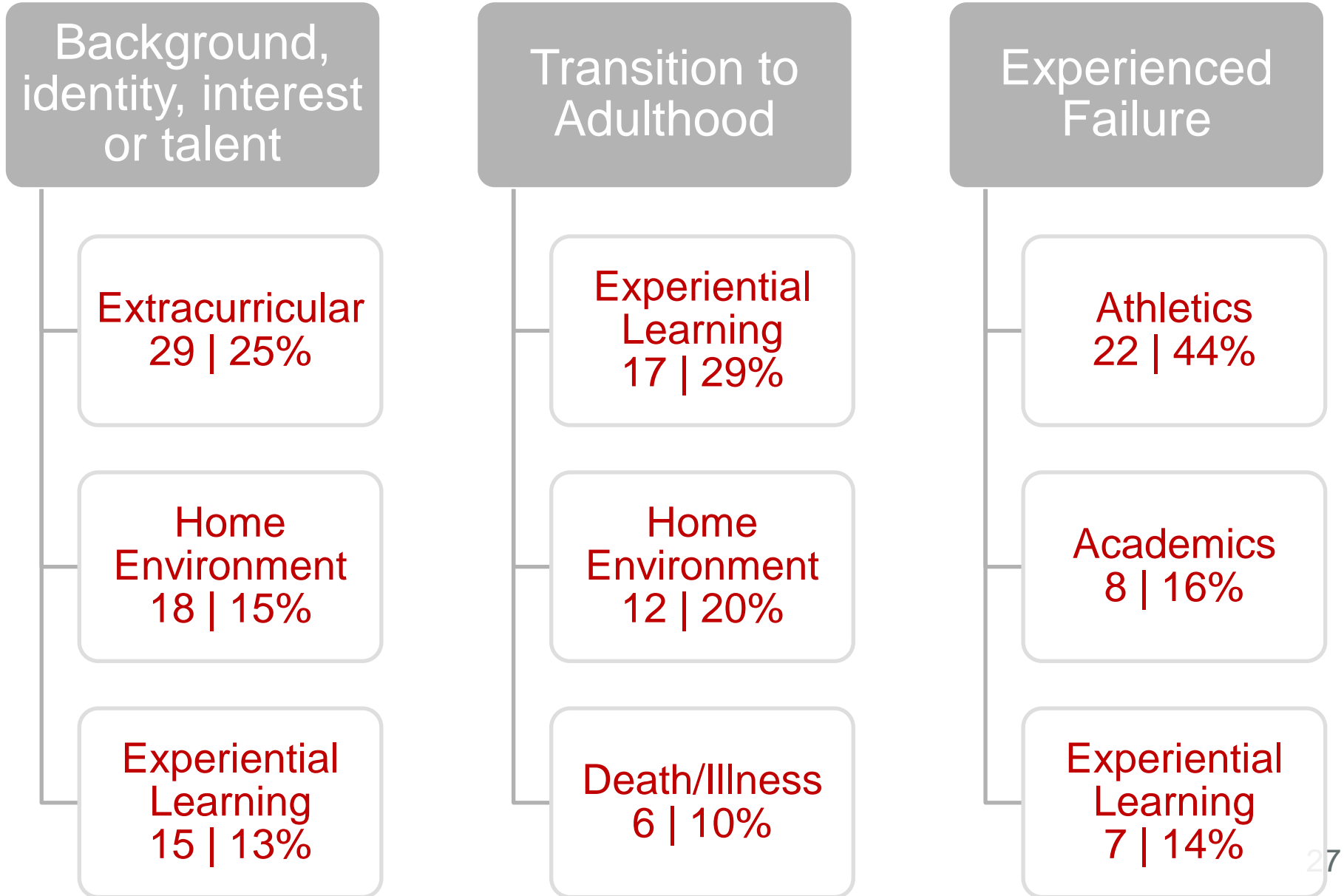
Service to Others

Social issues

Personal



1. Experiential Learning – 42 | 16%
2. Athletics – 39 | 15%
3. Extracurricular – 35 | 14%
4. Home Environment – 33 | 13%
5. Academics – 27 | 11%
6. Personal – 22 | 9%
7. Death / Illness (others) – 21 | 8%
8. Service to Others – 17 | 7%
9. Social issues – 10 | 4%
10. Transition & Moves – 10 | 4%







CHICKERING'S SEVEN VECTORS

Developing
Competence

Managing
Emotions

From Autonomy to
Independence

Developing Mature
Interpersonal Relationships

Establishing
Identity

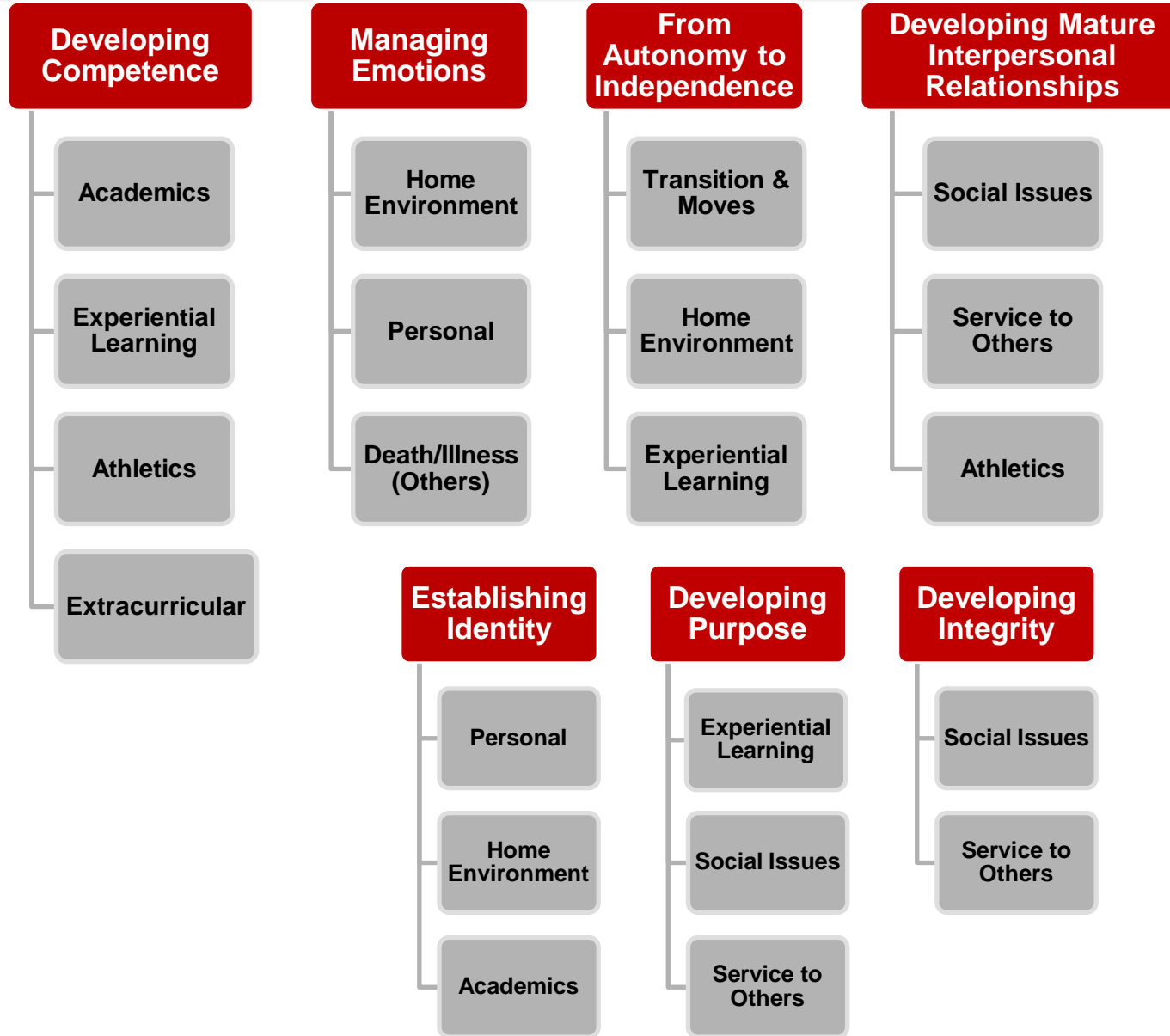
Developing
Purpose

Developing
Integrity

Source: "Student Development in College: Theory, Research, and Practice" (Evans, Forney, Guido, Patton and Renn)

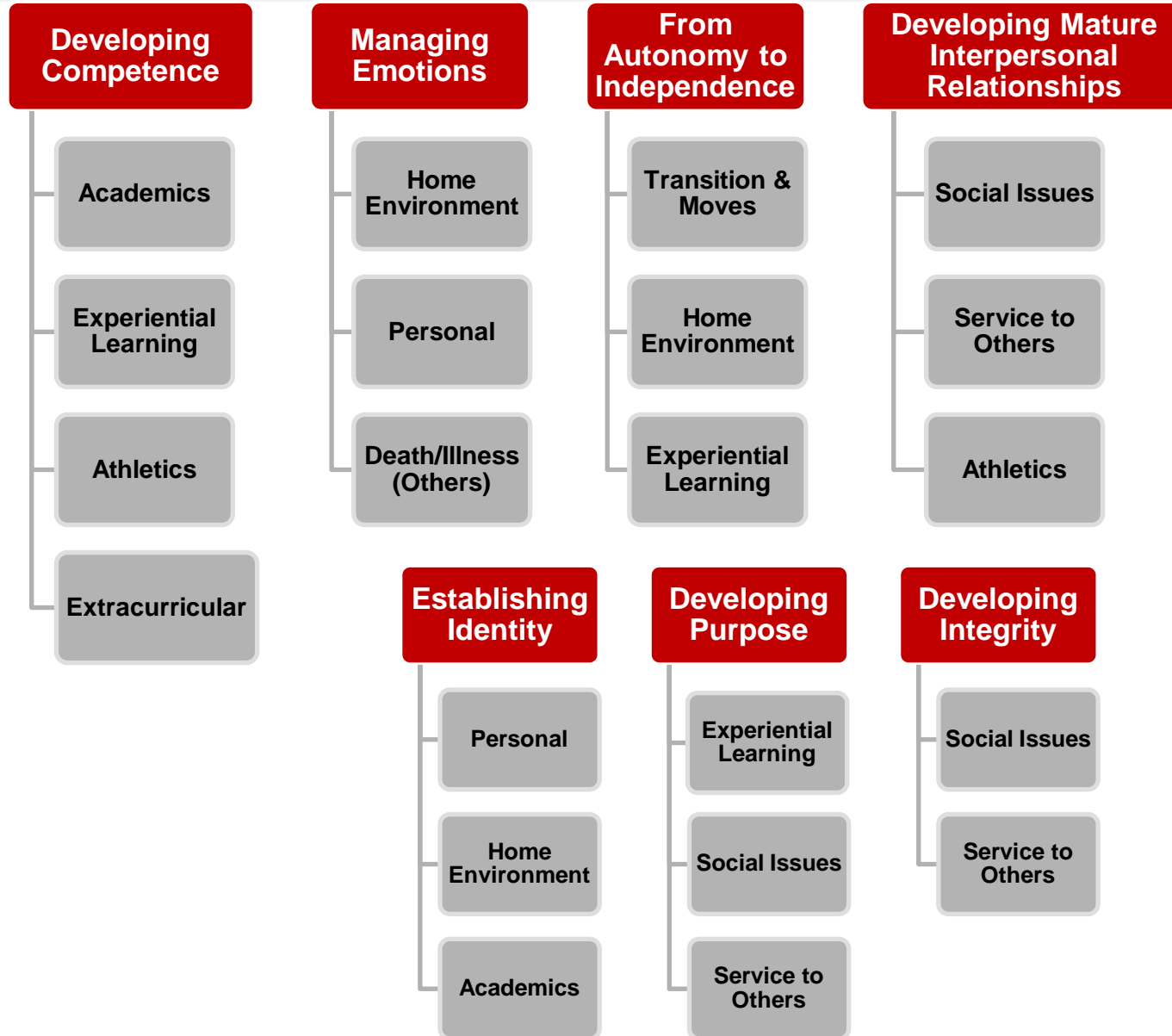


SEVEN VECTORS AND ESSAY THEMES





SEVEN VECTORS AND ESSAY THEMES

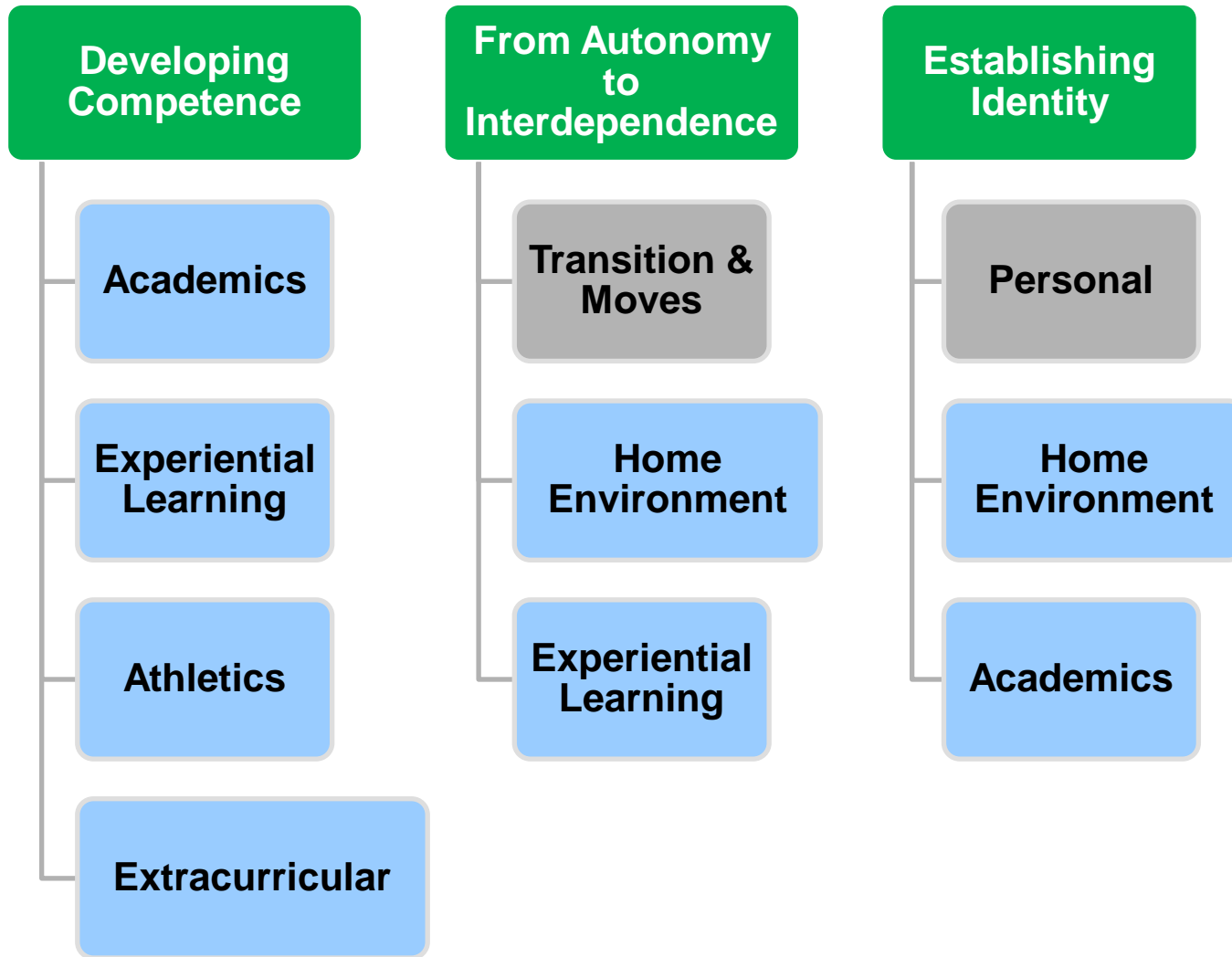




ESSAY SNIPPETS: TYING VECTORS AND THEMES

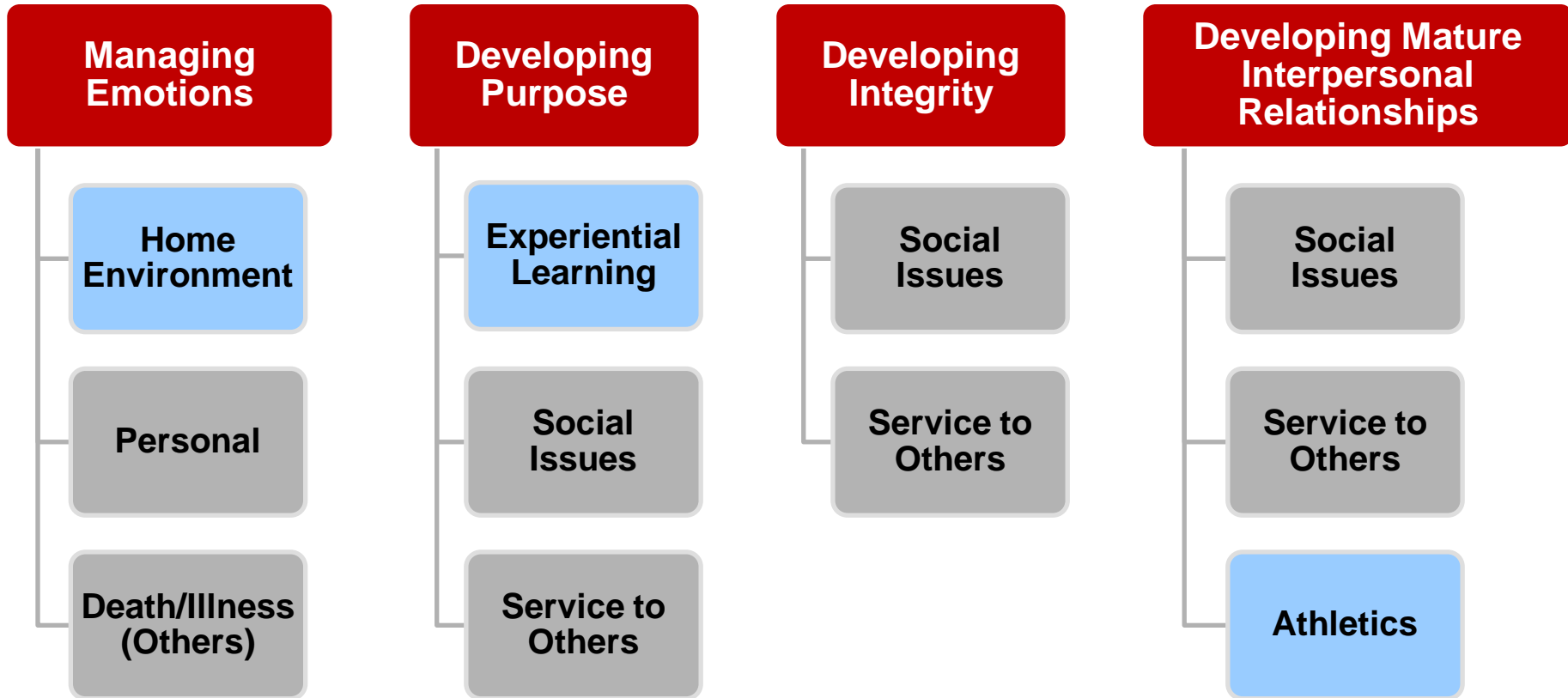


MAIN VECTORS AND THEMES





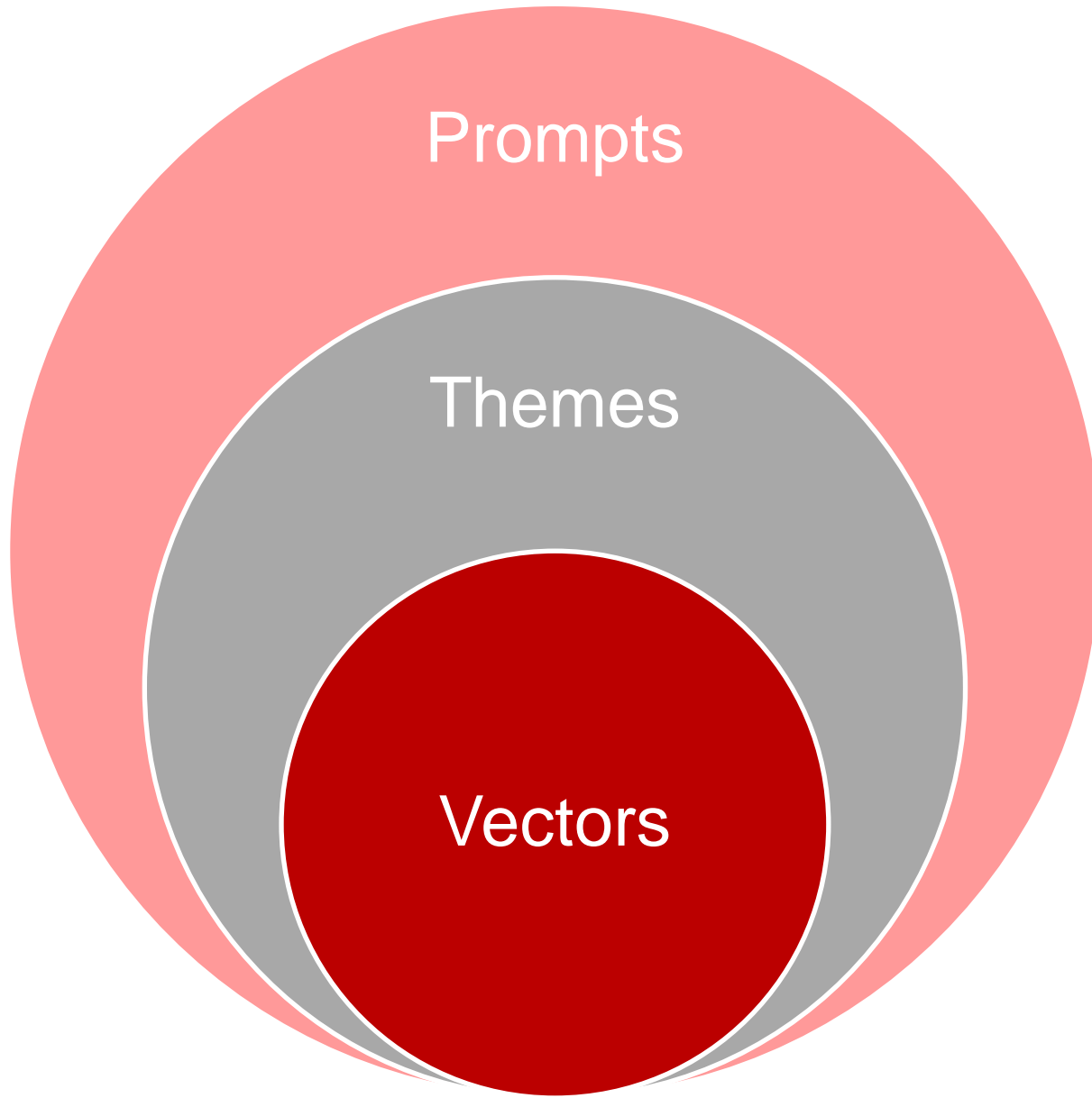
LESS PREVALENT VECTORS AND THEMES

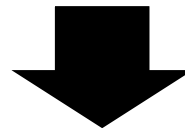
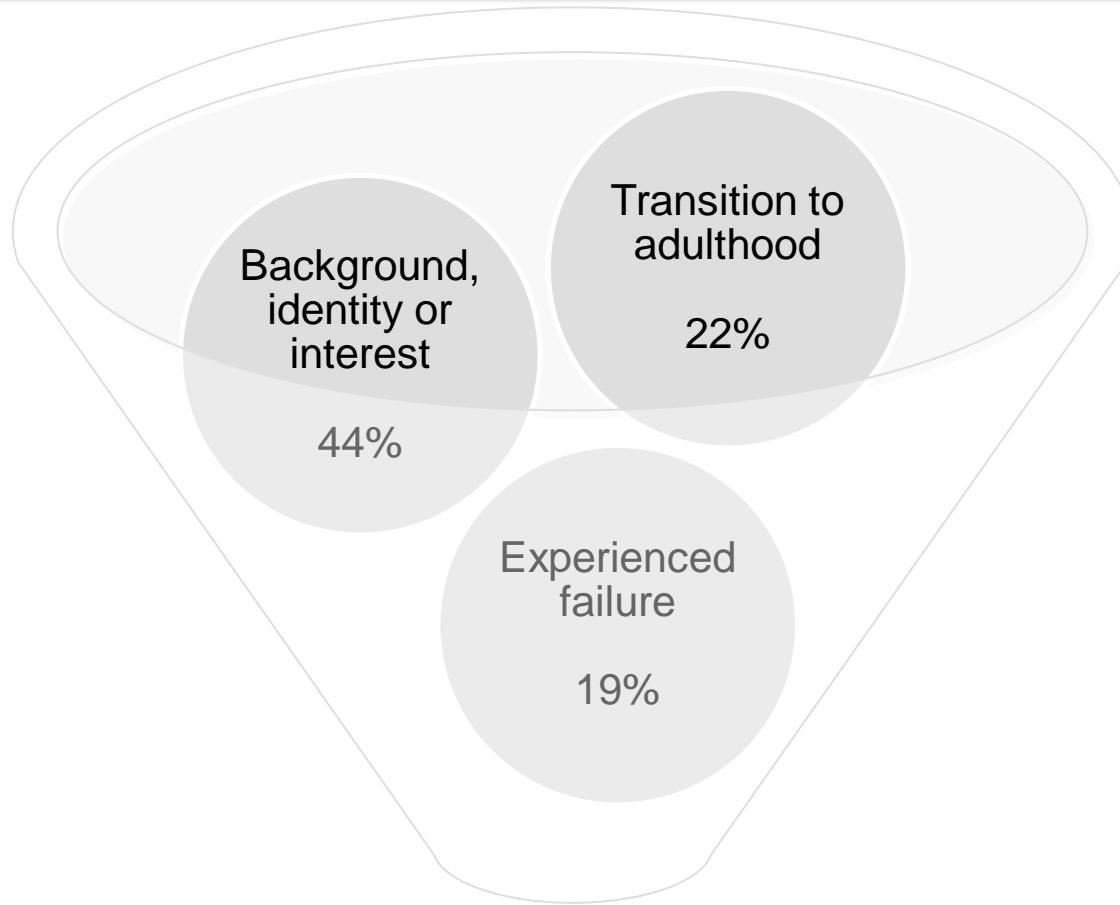




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TAKEAWAYS





85% of population



Academics
(11%)

Home
Environment
(13%)

Extracurricular
(14%)

Athletics
(15%)

Experiential
Learning
(16%)

**70% of
population**



**From Autonomy
to Independence**

**Developing
Competence**

**Establishing
Identity**



FINAL THOUGHTS?



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