

Awkward introductions on the first day,  
of  
the  
first year;  
the first step,  
to build lasting relationships.

We  
stammered,  
“Nice to meet you.”

Meeting  
for the first time  
people who make  
us  
feel like  
we  
belong.

A girl  
longing  
to be known.

A girl  
longing  
to be loved.

A girl  
longing  
for a  
friend;  
for the embrace of community.

“Nice to meet you,”  
became  
more meaningful  
everyday.

Awkward introductions  
sometimes  
become  
lifelong  
friendships.

There is nothing quite as beautiful.

When I reflect on the power of personal testimony in my own life, I keep reflecting on my personal essay for the Common Application (commonly abbreviated as “Common App”). The Common App is used by many high school seniors to apply to colleges and universities. It allows students to apply to over 1000 different institutions through the same platform. Almost all of these schools ask for your personal essay. In the personal essay, students are asked to describe who they are, with only 650 words. This testimony can make the difference in students getting into their dream schools or not.

I am fascinated by the importance that society puts on testimony to communicate one’s character in the college admissions process. There are countless books, videos, and tutors that exist solely to help students write their personal statement. These essays could make or break a college decision, which changes the course of one’s life. Thinking about how my testimony was a reason I got into Davidson College makes me realize how the power testimony had in my and my peers' lives.

The poem, “Interpersonal Essay,” is built from the words of my and my friends personal essays for the common app. Each line is from one of the essays, hence why sentences are frequently broken up. When you read the poem, you are reading the words of me and 5 of my closest friends I met at Davidson. Without these specific personal statements, I may have never built the friendships that are so important to me now. In a way we were brought together by our testimonies. I thought it was only right to bring our stories together in the same way and demonstrate how our testimonies allow us to now write a new story. Our testimonies, which reflect who we are, will forever function together in this poem. I find it quite beautiful.