

## MALS Application Writing Sample

To help the MALS program assess your current analytical writing skills, please read "*An Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Stewardship of the Global Commons*" by Douglas C. Bennett, Grant H. Cornwell, Haifa Jamal Al-Lail and Celeste Schenck.

Then respond to the prompt below in an essay of 4-5 pages (1200-1500 words). Article is included in this PDF after the prompt below.

In their proposal Bennet et al note that "ours is a world being transformed by transnational flows of goods and capital, peoples and practices; by the unraveling of the nation state; and by the rapid rise of new forms of instantaneous electronic communication." They observe that, therefore, the "challenges of the twenty-first century—the possibilities of prosperity, of peace, of health, of fulfillment—all unfold on a global stage. What a few people do in Boston or Bangkok, in Riyadh or Rome or Rio de Janeiro can affect others at a considerable distance. The earth has become a place of global cultures, in all of their valued particularity, and increasingly a global commons, in all of its necessary interdependence. An appropriate university education for everyone, not just a privileged elite, must prepare women and men for participation in these cultures and this commons." They focus on envisioning and implementing a system of "undergraduate education designed to prepare graduates for citizenship and leadership in the highly globalized twenty-first century..." that will equip them to "negotiate such complexity, and to enter into thoughtful stewardship of initiatives, resources, languages, and cultures."

Please engage Bennet et al's perspective on the value and necessity of liberal education as a component of higher education from the standpoint of graduate studies as well; what benefits of this approach might enrich your own pursuit of advanced study in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program? Briefly summarize their argument, then analyze specifically how their contentions resonate with your own background, mindset, and objectives for your pursuit of a graduate liberal studies degree.