

UNIVERSITY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

INFORMATION SESSION

FALL 2023

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01. INTRODUCTION TO THE UJC

Who are we and what do we do?

WHAT IS THE UJC?

- The University Judiciary Committee is the student-run judiciary body of the University of Virginia and is authorized to investigate and adjudicate alleged violations of the University's Standards of Conduct
 - Our mission is to maintain and promote a community of respect, safety, and freedom
 - We take an educational approach to sanctioning and believe in restorative justice



OUR HISTORY

1948

Student Council was granted the power to judge student misconduct and established a small judicial committee

1970

Standards of Conduct are established, the same year as the first fully co-ed class. Previously, the UJC judged whether conduct was "unbecoming of a gentleman"

2000-Present

Reorganized around a stronger executive committee and network of support officers, the UJC has remained strong in the modern age

1954

Following the East Lawn incident, the modern UJC is created, independent from Student Council, by a University-wide referendum

1987

Adoption of confidentiality for all cases following the passage of the Family Educational Rights and Protection Act

You can help write the next chapter of history for a 70+ year old organization

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

STANDARD 1

Physical assault of any person... or Prohibited Conduct, as defined in the University of Virginia Policy on Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence.

STANDARD 2

Conduct which intentionally or recklessly threatens the health or safety of any person on University-owned or leased property... or in the city of Charlottesville or Albemarle County.

STANDARD 3

Unauthorized entry into or occupation of University facilities which are locked, closed to student activities or otherwise restricted as to use.

STANDARD 4

Intentional disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, other University activities, or activities authorized to take place on University property.

STANDARD 5

Unlawfully blocking or impeding normal pedestrian or vehicular **traffic** on or adjacent to University property.

STANDARD 6

Violation of University policies or regulations referenced in **The Record**, including policies concerning residence and the use of University facilities.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

STANDARD 7

Alteration, fabrication, or misuse of, or obtaining unauthorized access to **University identification** cards, other documents, or **computer files or systems**.

STANDARD 8

Disorderly conduct on University-owned or leased property or at a University-sanctioned function...

STANDARD 9

Substantial damage to University-owned or leased **property** or to any property in the city of Charlottesville or Albemarle County or to property of a University student, employee, faculty member, or visitor...

STANDARD 10

Any violation of Federal, State, or local law, if such directly affects the University's pursuit of its proper educational purposes and only to the extent such violations are not covered by other Standards of Conduct

STANDARD 11

Intentional, reckless, or negligent conduct which **obstructs the operations of the Honor or Judiciary Committee**, or conduct that violates their rules of confidentiality.

STANDARD 12

Failure to comply with directions of University officials acting under provisions 1-11 set above. This shall include failure to give identity in situations concerning alleged violations of sections 1-11.

COMMON EXAMPLES

STD 2

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Any actions which endanger others, often combined with other standards
 - Large gatherings during COVID-19
 - Driving while drunk

STD 6

UNIVERSITY POLICY

- Alcohol or controlled substances in University residences
- Hazing
- Firearms on-Grounds
- COVID-19 policies

STD 10

VIOLATIONS OF LAW

- Getting a DUI/DWI
- Fake ID
- Resisting arrest
- Underage alcohol (off-Grounds)

02.

BREAKING DOWN THE UJC

Here's our meat and potatoes

TRIAL PROCESS

When a student or student organization is accused of violating a standard of conduct, they undergo this process

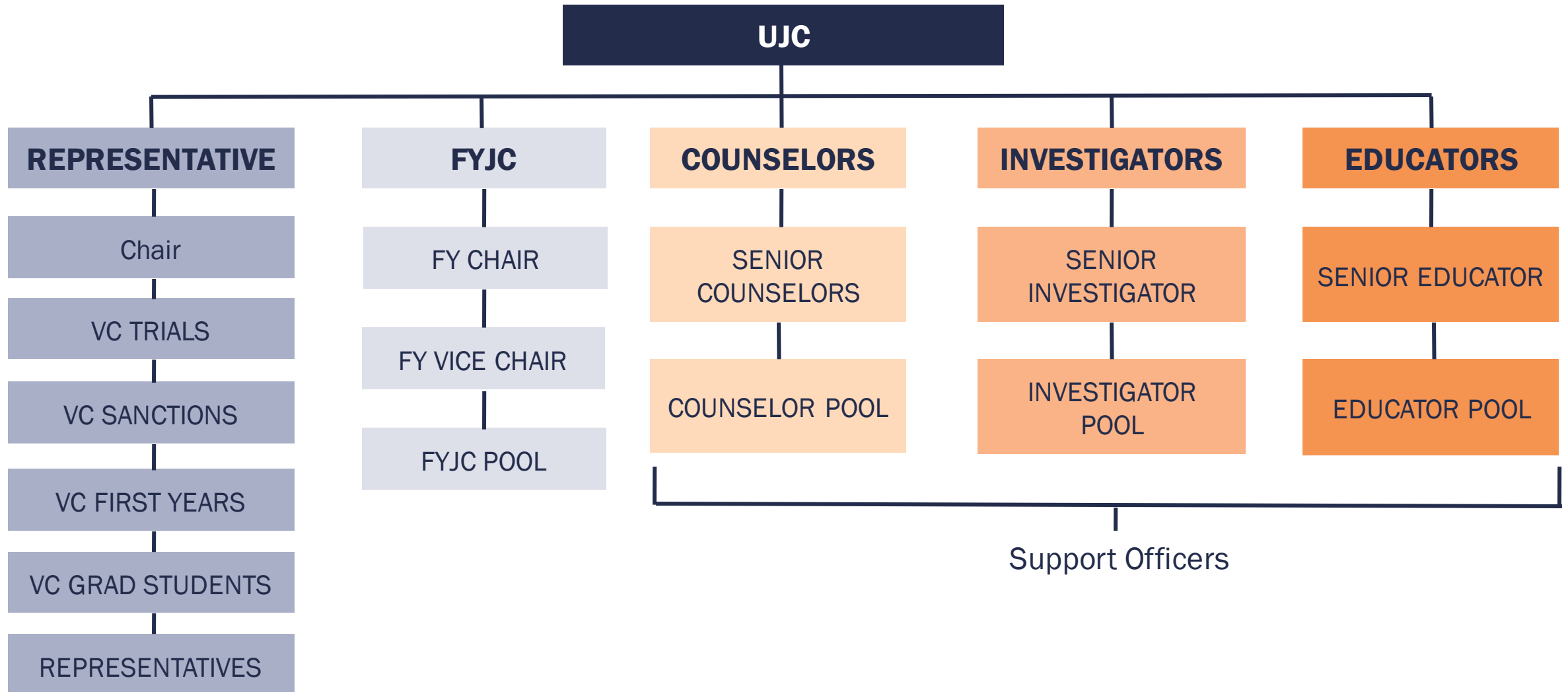
- Trial timeline
 - Opening statements by counselors from both sides.
 - Each side will present their case with their witness(es) and the opposing side can cross-examine.
 - Closing statements by counselors from both sides
 - Everyone will leave the trial room and the trial panel will make their decision
- Trial for Guilt: this trial is strictly to determine if a student is guilty of violating a standard of conduct
- Trial for Sanction: after the party has been deemed guilty via a trial for guilt or guilty plea, there is a separate trial to determine what actions are appropriate
 - Keeping in line with our judicial philosophy, we call the actions required of a student after a guilty verdict sanctions rather than punishments or sentences
 - Sanctions can range from verbal admonition, essays, and community service to suspension or expulsion

UJC & HONOR COMMITTEES

The UJC and Honor Committees are both **Agency Organizations** responsible for adjudicating student misconduct at the University.

	UNIVERSITY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE	HONOR COMMITTEE
TYPES OF CASES	VIOLATIONS OF THE 12 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT	LYING, CHEATING, OR STEALING
SANCTIONS	MULTI-SANCTION, RANGING FROM ESSAY TO EXPULSION	NEW MULTI-SANCTION SYSTEM STARTING 2023
WHO DECIDES THE OUTCOME	ELECTED AND TRAINED REPRESENTATIVES FROM EVERY SCHOOL	RANDOMLY SELECTED STUDENTS (GUILT) AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES (SANCTION)
SUPPORT OFFICERS	COUNSELORS, INVESTIGATORS, EDUCATORS	COUNSELOR/INVESTIGATOR (JOINT POOL), ADVISOR, EDUCATOR
EXAMPLE CASE	DRINKING IN FIRST-YEAR RESIDENCE HALLS	UNATHORIZED COLLABORATION ON AN EXAM
EXAMPLE CASE	BAR FIGHT BETWEEN TWO STUDENTS	STEALING ANOTHER STUDENT'S BACKPACK

STRUCTURE OF THE UJC



03.

FIRST YEAR JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

What (and who) is it?

FIRST YEAR JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

- FYJC Representatives are a group of 12 appointed first-years who serve as judges on cases involving first-year students
 - These students are trained by the Vice Chair for First Years, a current representative
 - Current VCFY, Melinda Wong vaq9qn@virginia.edu
 - Internal elections are held to elect a first-year chair and first-year vice chair who serve on the executive committee
 - First Year Chair: Katie Pan jbw5nv@virginia.edu
 - First Year Vice Chair: Joseph Chambers qat3hz@virginia.edu



04. **SUPPORT OFFICERS**

Counselors, Investigators, and Educators

COUNSELORS

- Counselors serve as advocates for the accused and complainant parties going through the UJC trial system
 - This includes advising the parties of their rights, assisting them in the preparation of their cases, and representing them at trial
 - They interview witnesses, draft examinations and statements, handle evidence, and help make decisions on how the case should proceed
- Interested in learning more?
 - Contact the Senior Counselors: Harper Jones at fnu8fv@virginia.edu or Daria London at dml8rx@virginia.edu



INVESTIGATORS

- Investigators serve as impartial record keepers for both parties going through the UJC trial system
 - They meet with both parties and compile an agreed upon account of the event in question compiled into a formal report
 - During trial, they handle evidence and record trial proceedings for appeal documentation
 - Throughout this process, they closely coordinate with the representative as well as both parties and their counselors
- Interested in learning more?
 - Contact the Senior Investigator, Campbell Coleman, at zaa7jk@virginia.edu



EDUCATORS

- Educators serve as the outreach arm of the Committee, doing things such as...
 - Giving presentations to first-year dorms, CIOs, and Greek organizations
 - Tabling and flyers, particularly during referenda
 - Running our social media
 - Reaching out to accused students to receive feedback on their representation, the trial process, and trial outcome
- Educators do not serve a formal role during trial
- Interested in learning more?
 - Contact the Senior Educator, Jordan Rodgers, at hqh2vq@virginia.edu



05. **WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE UJC?**

Testimonials, Alumni, & Skills



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

University Judiciary Committee

TIME COMMITMENT

- All members go to bi-weekly general body meetings and on the intervening weeks attend pool meetings
 - Held each Sunday from 6-7pm in Newcomb Hall
- During your first semester, new members also attend weekly training sessions in order to prepare for their role
 - Times depend based on pool, but will be one hour long in the evening of a weeknight
- When you are staffed on a case, time commitment varies depending on the severity and complexity of the case
 - Generally have 2-3 weeks between when you are assigned to a case and when the trial is set where you are meeting with the parties, preparing for trial, communicating with other members prior to trial
 - We understand all members of the UJC are students and will work around schedules on when you are staffed on cases

DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

The students who make up the Committee make the University a better place through their service and develop new skills they will use for the rest of their lives

Communication

- Public Speaking
- Interview Experience
- Professional Etiquette
- Advocacy

Emotional Intelligence

- Empathy
- Conflict Resolution
- Justice
- Respectfulness

Teamwork

- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Organization
- Adaptability

Integrity

- Accountability
- Trustworthiness
- Objectivity
- Independence

“

As an undergraduate student, the ideals and practices of Student Self-Governance at UVa helped to strengthen a foundation of self-advocacy, confidence, and responsibility for my work in the future. As a staff member, I feel fortunate to watch future generations of Hoos have experiences that allow them to do the same.

-Alex Hall

Associate Dean of Students

Previous member of the Honor Committee (CLAS '10)

”

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- As a pillar of student-self governance at the UVa, members of the University Judiciary Committee are empowered to make big changes to the very nature of this institution and create big impacts on accused students
 - Although this is not a responsibility we take lightly, it is one that can shape your experience at the University
- Here's why we joined the UJC





Student self-governance is the radical idea that students from the moment they walk on our grounds are both relevant stakeholders at the University and are equipped to advance it.

-Abraham Axler

Student Council President 2016-2017

Primary author of 2017 Student Self-Governance Report



06.

HOW TO JOIN THE UJC

Instructions for next steps and contact information



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

University Judiciary Committee

HOW TO JOIN THE UJC

- Decide what pool you are interested in
 - You can apply to one pool or one pool and the FYJC
- Two-stage process
 - Written application submitted by Sunday, September 10th
 - You will be contacted if you are selected for an interview



Nice try Campbell!

Not required but highly recommended: attend an information session/application workshop

- Monday 8/28 (6-7pm)
- Friday 9/1 (2-3pm) - Joint with Honor
 - Application Workshop 3-4pm
- Tuesday 9/5 (7-8pm)
- Thursday 9/7 (5-6pm)
 - Application Workshop 6-7pm
- Friday 9/8 (1-2pm)
 - Application Workshop 2-3pm

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Written application due Monday September 10th
 - Two questions for all applicants and one position-specific question, all 150-250 words in length
 - Application information is available at our website, ujc.virginia.edu
 - Email applications to ujc_applications@virginia.edu
- Interviews announced Thursday September 14th
 - FYJC
 - Group Interviews from Friday 9/15 to Monday 9/18
 - Individual Interviews from Tuesday 9/19 to Friday 9/22
 - Support Officers (Counselor, Investigator, Educator)
 - Individual Interviews Friday 9/15 to Friday 9/22
- Acceptances announced Sunday 9/24

ANY QUESTIONS?

Who to contact if you have additional questions after this meeting:

- Information about a pool
 - **FYJC:** Melinda Wong, vaq9qn@virginia.edu
 - **Counselors:** Harper Jones, fnu8fv@virginia.edu, or Daria London dml8rx@virginia.edu
 - **Investigators:** Campbell Coleman, zaa7jk@virginia.edu
 - **Educators:** Jordan Rodgers, huq2zw@virginia.edu
- Questions on how to submit
 - Sophia Stanisic (Senior Data Manager) mns5mr@virginia.edu
- More complex questions
 - Lisa Kopelnik (Chair) jjq3he@virginia.edu

This presentation will also be put on our website (ujc.virginia.edu) under the 'JOIN UJC' tab and shared to the interest listserv after all info sessions are completed



UJC APPLICATION WORKSHOP

FALL 2023

THE APPLICATION (All Applicants)

- Three questions: **two** required and **one** optional
 - *Required:* According to its mission statement, the UJC exists to promote a community of safety, respect, and freedom at the University of Virginia. Choose **one** of those three core values (**safety, respect, or freedom**) and explain **why** it is important both to **you personally** and to the **broader university community** (150-250 Words).
 - *Required:* As a judicial body, the UJC adjudicates cases involving students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Please describe **how** you are uniquely suited to **engage with UVa's diverse population** in your capacity as a UJC officer. If you plan to apply to more than one position, feel free to **tailor your response to your first choice role** (150-250 Words).
 - *If Applicable:* Is there any **additional information** you would like to disclose that is relevant for our consideration? (e.g. English is not your first/primary language) (50 Word Max).

THE APPLICATION (Pools)

- First Year Judiciary Committee (Open to all First-Year Students)
 - **Why are you the best candidate** for the position of FYJC Judge? Please describe any relevant personal characteristics, strengths, skills, or experiences. (150-250 words).
- Counselor
 - Counselors in the University Judiciary Committee advocate on behalf of accused students or reporting parties in student misconduct hearings. **Why do you want to serve as an advocate?** What does **advocacy** mean to you? (150-250 Words).
- Investigator
 - Investigators in the University Judiciary Committee meet with both parties involved in student misconduct hearings and put together an unbiased report. What kind of **experiences or skills** do you have that would **allow you to excel** at these tasks? (150-250 Words).
- Educator
 - Educators are tasked with informing the University of the purpose of the UJC. What **initiatives would you undergo** to aid in this mission? (150-250 Words).

THE APPLICATION (Format)

- Single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-pt. Font in PDF form
- Type **positions** to which you are applying in the **top left corner** of the document
 - If applying to multiple positions, write them in order of preference
- Do not write your name.
- Title the PDF as UJC_Application_YourComputingID
- Email to ujc_applications@virginia.edu
- Deadline: September 10 at 11:59 PM

First Year Judiciary Committee, Counselor

According to its mission statement, the UJC exists to promote a community of safety, respect, and freedom at the University of Virginia. Choose one of those three core values (safety, respect, or freedom) and explain why it is important both to you personally and to the broader university community (150-250 Words)

In philosophia et sapientia, homines quaerunt profunditatem vitae. Philosophia, quasi lucida via ad sapientiam, studium est quod ingenia hominum expandit, eorum mentes illuminat, et veritatem universalem quaerit. Philosophi per aetates humanae historiae interrogaverunt de natura, de moribus, et de causis rerum. Socrates, Plato, et Aristotle in Graecia antiqua sapientiae lumina fuerunt. Socratem dixisse legimus: "Scio me nihil scire," quod sapientiae initium est. Sapientia autem non solum ex discipulis philosophiae nascitur sed etiam ex experientia vitae ipsius. Vita est magistra, quae nobis constantiam, prudentiam, et virtutem docet. Horatius, poeta Romanus, scripsit: "Sapientia est divitiarum; scio quae sit ratio." Sapientes mentes omnium aetatum et locorum litteris sunt communes. Ab oriente ad occidentem, a tempore antiquo ad modernum, homines sapientiae quaestionibus dedicati sunt. Meditatio, contemplatio, et dialogus formas philosophandi sunt. Exempla philosophiae et sapientiae legimus in libris sacris et litteris classicis. Philosophia et sapientia homines ad virtutem, veritatem, et beatitudinem ducunt. Flora et fauna, variis formis et coloribus, spectaculum praebent quod corda nostra exultat. In haec mirabilia naturae, veram magnitudinem mundi agnoscimus. Solem, lunam et sidera caeli, noctu splendida, admiramur. Natura nobis constantiam, simplicitatem, et magnitudinem suam ostendit, nos humilitatem et gratitudinem docens. O quam pulchra est terra nostra, cui omnes custodiamus et diligamus.

As a judicial body, the UJC adjudicates cases involving students from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Please describe how you are uniquely suited to engage with UVA's diverse population in your capacity as a UJC officer. If you plan to apply to more than one position, feel free to tailor your response to your first choice role (150-250 Words).

Amicitia, vinculum inter homines dulce et sanctum, est fundamentum societatis humanae. In amicitia, animi coniunguntur et affectus sinceri fructum ferunt. Amici inter se gaudia et tristitia communicant, auxilium in temporibus adversis praebent, et mutuum fiduciam colunt. Cicero, antiquus Romanus, amicitiam "vitae salus" appellavit. Vero amico non egeas, sed amicum tibi esse oportet. Amicus non pretio sed fide et amore aestimatur. Amicitia vera virtutem fovet, errores condonat, et vitam arricat. Amici sunt speculum, quod nostras virtutes et vitia revelat, nobis ad meliorem formam incitant.

Amicitia non iudicat per opes, status, aut fortunam, sed cor ad cor loquitur. In difficultatibus et prosperitatibus, amici adesse solent. Veri amici rari sunt, sed in eis pulchritudo amicitiae invenitur. Qui amicitiam colunt, veram divitiam possident.

EXAMPLE GRADING RUBRIC

Focus on the Question: According to its mission statement, the UJC exists to promote a community of safety, respect, and freedom at the University of Virginia. Choose **one** of those three core values (safety, respect, or freedom) and explain why it is important both to you personally and to the broader university community (150-250 Words).

1—Poor	2: Weak	3: Satisfactory	4: Strong	5: Exceptional
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Centers on more than one core value- Chooses a core value but the response does not focus on that core value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chooses one core value but does not interpret its meaning and explain its significance to them or the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chooses and interprets one core value but does not explain why it's important to both them and the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Response is vague and general in its descriptions, but does describe the significance of a core value to the application and the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Response is specific and concrete in its descriptions, interpreting a core value and explaining its importance to the applicant and the community