

First-Generation Harvard Alumni Red Book Writing Prompts

- What is your strongest memory about your time at Harvard? What is your strongest memory about your family or friends? What is your strongest memory about your work or your avocation?
- What event at Harvard completely changed your life? How has it influenced your life since graduation?
- Either at Harvard or more recently, think of a time when someone surprised you (or you surprised yourself!) in a good way or in a bad way.
- Think of a time at Harvard or more recently when you stood up for yourself or clashed with someone important to you.
- Think of a time at Harvard or more recently when you had to make a decision that affected someone else.
- Think about your identity before and after your Harvard experience. How are the two similar or different? What role has Harvard played in this development?
- What does Harvard mean to you? What does being a Harvard alum mean to you?
- Why do you think it's important to share your story? What do you have to teach? What do you have to learn?
- If you could say anything to your Harvard freshman self, what would it be and why?

You may find it helpful to consider the following in telling a compelling story:

- Think about a relationship—it could be with another person, with a place, with your work, or even with yourself.
- Think about an event or a series of events that significantly affected this relationship.
- In your story, describe for us the change you have experienced. How are you a different person now?