The University of Virginia is encouraging research across all fields of study, from law to medicine to philosophy to the sciences and beyond, to promote interdisciplinary approaches to the complex problem of resiliency. There are many definitions of resiliency, one of which is the capacity of systems, natural or human-built, to function and flourish in the face of environment change. In other words, resiliency is the ability of human and natural systems to adapt.

Choose a field of study (some examples are found below) and, in one of the suggested formats, explain how that field can help us build resiliency. Make sure your chosen format is authentic, meaning that it fits with your field of study. For example, a business field of study would not lend itself to a painting.

If you choose to submit an essay or another written work, there is no suggested page-length or word count. You should formulate your idea, and then send us a concrete representation of that idea. If you choose to submit something more abstract (such as artwork or poetry), it would be beneficial for you to provide a written/spoken explanation along with it in order to ensure that we understand your vision.

**Potential Fields of Study** (in alphabetical order)

- Anthropology
- Architecture
- Arts (performance or visual)
- Business
- Commerce
- Education
- Engineering
- English
- Environmental Sciences
- Law
- Medicine
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Public policy
- Religion
- Sociology

**Suggested Formats** (in alphabetical order)

- Advertisement
- Article
- Artwork
- Brochure
- Comic strip
- Commercial (filmed or scripted)
- Essay
- Financial Plan
- Legal Brief
- Lesson Plan
- Letter
- Podcast
- Poem
- Project Proposal
- Sermon
- Speech
- Trailer (filmed or scripted)

Sometimes applicants have questions about what outside help is allowed when working on an SEP application prompt. Part of adequately responding to this prompt does require talking with people, listening to their ideas and input, and discussing your own ideas with other people. Responding to this prompt also requires you to spend a substantial amount of time thinking, researching, and writing on your own. It is a good idea to have someone proofread your response before you submit it. The final product that you submit to us should be the result of your own work to synthesize the information and ideas you have researched and discussed with other people.

Please note the SEP online application system will only accept ONE uploaded file, so please consider this when responding to the prompt. If your response is not in a format that you can upload online, you should call us at 434-924-3182 for assistance.