

Edge Academics & Athletics

Emily Gallagher, Founder

info@mycollegetgameplan.com

Pam Borrromeo, Writing Consultant

teamborrromeo2@comcast.net

**Is there really that much
writing that goes into a
college application?**

College Application Essay Platforms

The Common Application

Personal Statement: 650 word limit

Additional Comments: 650 word limit

The Coalition Application

Personal Statement: 550 word limit

University of California (UC) Application

Personal Insight Questions: 350 word limit

4 responses required

8 questions to choose from

2018-2019 Common Application Essay Prompts

Personal Statement: 650 Word Limit

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma – anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Check with each college for additional requests for responses.

2018-2019 Coalition Essay Prompts

Word Limit: 550

1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
2. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
3. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
4. What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
5. Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

Check with each college for additional requests for responses.

UC Application

Personal Insight Questions (PIQ)

Word Limit: 350 for each of 4 responses

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions/freshman/index.html>

*****Can apply to all 9 campuses with one set of responses*****

. . . Wait. . . there's more?

Supplementals

SAMPLES:

University of Washington:

<http://admit.washington.edu/apply/freshman/how-to-apply/writing-section/>

Loyola Marymount Univeristy (LMU):

<https://wowwritingworkshop.com/college-essay-prompts/loyola-marymount-university/>

P.T.I.I

Passion

Talent

Initiative

Impact

HOW TO PREPARE: College App Writing

• CONSIDER:

AUDIENCE: College Admissions Officers

- Potentially 22-28 years old (often recent grads, grad students, etc.)
- General versus Specific Knowledge (be careful of sharing too specialized of information in any subject area)

PURPOSE: To Gain Admissions . . . Market Your Best Self

• TIME TO REFLECT

Take your time. . . DO the pre-write warm-up.

• NARRATIVE FORMAT....

“I” is not just OKAY. . . It’s a MUST

• HIGH STAKES

You are asking important people to make important decisions about you.

College App Writing WARM-UP:

Get to know yourself again. . .

Free-write as much as you can about the following. . .

BEST MOMENT in life. . . explain in detail what made it BEST. . . how did it impact, change, affect you?

GREATEST SUCCESS/ACCOMPLISHMENT . . . explain the success in detail and what it was that made you successful. . . how has that impacted/shaped you since?

A TIME YOU STRETCHED YOURSELF. . . a time you stepped out of your comfort zone and tried something you either had a fear or dread of trying or something that was completely new and different from either the skill set or interests you held at the time. How did this event in your life impact you then? Now?

YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT . . . what happened? Did you stand up for something you believed in? Did you challenge a person or idea when it was unpopular to do so? Did you conquer a fear or phobia? Did you help another person in some way? The possibilities are limitless . . . Tell us about this moment and how it has shaped who you have become. . .

YOUR GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT . . . explain the circumstances in detail and what made this event/experience so disappointing. . . how has it impacted/shaped you moving forward?

YOUR GREATEST SETBACK . . . explain the circumstances in detail and how this event/experience disrupted/interfered/negatively impacted your goals and ambitions? How has it shaped you moving forward?

SOMETHING HARD in your life. . . It could be a personal challenge you have had to overcome, it could be a difficult relationship, it could be a bad choice or decision you made . . . Describe the circumstances and in what ways you have used/looked back upon/drawn from/grown from/gained from that experience.

BIGGEST MISTAKE . . . Explain the circumstances in detail and how this event / experience impacted you then. . . now. . .

YOUR GREATEST IMPACT . . . In what way have you shared your talent, skills, knowledge or service with others? What inspired you to do this? In what ways did you support, impact, change others experiences, beliefs or behaviors? How do you know this? How has this shaped you?

What are FIVE reads (books, articles, poems, etc.) that have left a significant impression upon you (It could be the Lorax, or Jane Goodall In The Shadow of Man, or Erma Bombeck The Grass is Always Greener or anything that touched you, shaped you, impacted you)

GOOD TOPIC?

BAD TOPIC?

- **Scoring the winning shot in the big game**
- **A service trip experience**
- **Battling a learning disorder**
- **Doing the dishes**
- **Getting a driver's license**

- **Battling depression**
- **Getting suspended/ fired from a job**
- **An infatuation with folding origami**

