

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS

(Taken from recent college applications)

1. Since our knowledge is limited to the information provided, why not then use this opportunity to tell us anything you think we should know?
2. What do you see as the turning point(s) or important events in your life and why do you view them as such?
3. Who are the people who have done the most to influence your personal development and in what ways were they influential?
4. What prominent person (past or present) do you particularly admire? Why?
5. What idea has most influenced your life? Explain.
6. What is the most critical moral, ethical, or social problem facing America?
7. Describe your ideal of the honorable person. Feel free to use examples.
8. Discuss briefly the one or two extracurricular, work or community activities that have meant the most to you.
9. Write a brief essay of 200-500 words on any topic of direct personal importance to you.
10. If you were given the opportunity to spend an evening with any one person, living, deceased, or fictional, whom would you choose and why?
11. Please cite and discuss a literary quotation or brief passage that has special meaning to you.
12. Write a personal essay of 250-500 words. Use this essay to help us learn more about you—your experiences, values, or interests. You might describe a person or event that has been especially influential in your life; you might write about your goals for the future; or you may write about anything that you feel will enable us to know you better.
13. Describe a situation in which your values or beliefs caused conflict with someone you respect. How was the situation resolved?
14. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
15. Describe a character in fiction, an historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you and explain that influence.
16. I will be an asset to _____ College/University because...
17. What is your favorite word and why?
18. The Honor System is an important element of student life at our college. The Committee on Admissions would like to know something of your views about honor.

Additional Resources:

- [Writing Your Application Essay](#) by Sarah Myers McGinty
- [Essays That Worked](#) edited by Boykin Curry and Brian Kasbar
- [The Best College Application Essays](#) by Mark Alan Stewart
- [The Elements of Style](#) by Strunk and White
- <http://www.commonapp.org/tips.htm>