



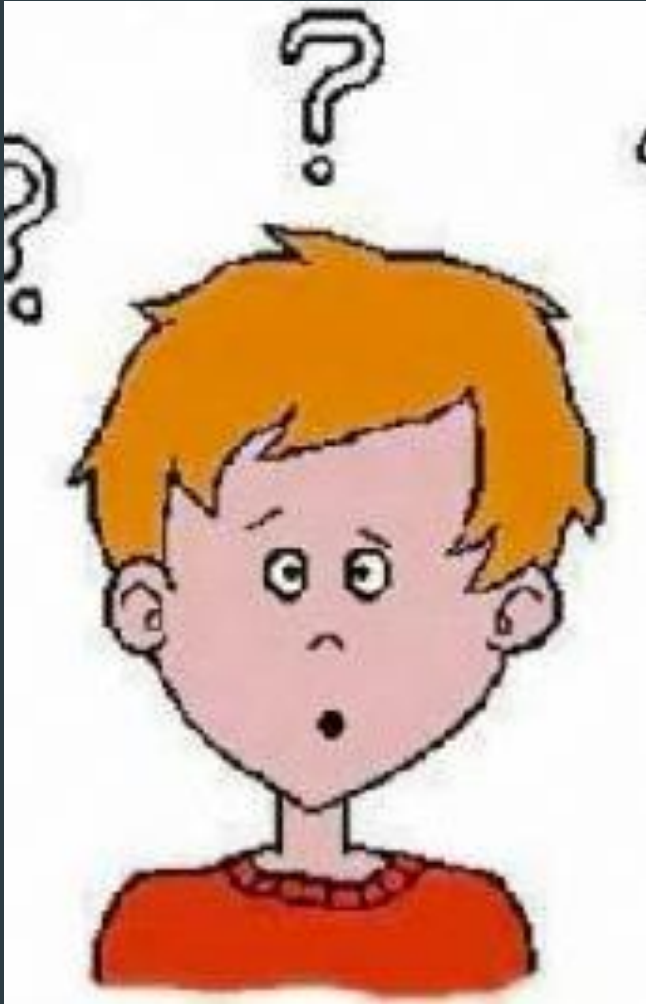
College Admission essay requirements

Mrs. Angela Yopp

- ▶ In 2016, the National Association of College Admission Counseling ranked the College Essay as the 5th most important item in college application acceptance, only behind such things as grades and test scores.
- ▶ Grades and test scores tell very little about the person behind the application.
- ▶ The College Essay brings life to those numbers and letters and allows each applicant to make a personal connection with the admission counselors.

What is the purpose of the college admission essay?

- ▶ 2 main reasons
 - ▶ To evaluate writing skills, both strengths and weaknesses. This gives validity to the grades they see on transcripts
 - ▶ To create a persona for the “person behind the paperwork”. Each essay provides insight into the student as an individual



So how do
I write it?



Tips to create
the best essay
possible for
college
admissions

1. Choose the correct topic

- ▶ Each college or university will have a set of required prompts that you may pick from. Choose the one that best fits your situation.
- ▶ Don't try to make things up, it will come through that it isn't true

But how do I choose a topic?

▶ Brainstorm.

- ▶ Make a list of all the things that you have accomplished, failed at , struggled with through high school. These could be academic, personal, work or family related
- ▶ Include things from within yourself that you struggled to change or modify. It may be a religious or political belief or idea, a disillusionment or epiphany about relationships, whether those be friends, significant others or familial.
- ▶ What classes were difficult and why? How did you manage to get through and do well? Or if you didn't do well, what did learn from that experience?
- ▶ Ask Family members for things they saw you struggle with. An outside perspective often leads to more idea.

Common App Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, 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 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 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.

Coalition App Essay Prompts



The prompts for the 2019-20 application years are:



Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.



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.



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?



What is the hardest part of being a student now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?



Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

UF Essay Prompts

2019-2020 Essay Topics

Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

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.

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?

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)?

Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

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.

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?

Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

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.

Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

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?

UCF Recommended Personal Statement Prompts

- ▶ Although optional, an essay assists the Admissions Committee in knowing you as an individual, independent of test scores and other objective data. We ask that you respond to two of the topics below. Your responses should be no longer than a **total of 500 words or 7,000 characters**.
 - ▶ If there has been some obstacle or bump in the road in your academic or personal life, please explain the circumstances.
 - ▶ How has your family history, culture or environment influenced who you are?
 - ▶ Why did you choose to apply to UCF?
 - ▶ What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that will allow you to contribute to the UCF community?

2. Use a strong opening

- ▶ Admission offices receive 1000's of essays each year. You want yours to stand out.
- ▶ Introduce your persona and voice immediately.
- ▶ Catch their attention, you want the reader to be shocked or surprised at how your essay is different than the other 329 they read that day.
- ▶ Words matter. Style, tone and voice must be a consideration in writing to the prompt of your choice. Let the message drive the voice and the tone and the rhetorical flourishes.

3. Make it personal to you

- ▶ This is your one chance to give insight into the type of person you are.
- ▶ Show traits that would be a good fit for that college.
- ▶ Everyone has a story, tell yours. Don't sell yourself short.
- ▶ Experiences don't have to have movie endings to be perfect to showcase you.

4. SHOW rather than TELL

- ▶ Use anecdotes, examples and descriptions
- ▶ Serious works, but so does a touch of careful and thoughtful humor. Show how you are resilient or funny or compassionate or a hard worker, don't just write those words.
- ▶ Bring your life to life

5. Edit and proofread

- ▶ You want this essay to show not only your persona but also your writing style. However, this is not the typical essay format with intros, thesis statements and conclusions.
- ▶ Have several different people read it, it gives new perceptions
- ▶ Don't over edit and make it sound like a research paper
- ▶ Stay within the word counts asked for