

Sample College and Scholarship Application Essay Questions

Many applications ask you for similar information. Below is a list of common questions. You should be able to respond to most of these in fewer than 500 words.

- 1) Complete an essay addressing the following areas:
 - a. Your reasons for choosing _____ as a career
 - b. Your decision to apply for admission to our school
 - c. Your education and professional goals
 - d. How your acceptance would add diversity to the student population at our school
 - e. How your life experiences have prepared you for the degree program of your choice
- 2) Who/what influenced your decision to apply to our school?
- 3) What stimulated your interest in your chosen major and what attributes do you possess that you feel would enhance your career?
- 4) What personal experience have you had related to your chosen major?
- 5) What strengths/assets do you have that you feel would contribute to your chosen profession?
- 6) What participation in extracurricular/work/community activities have you had which emphasize experience with people? Briefly discuss the importance to you of these experiences.
- 7) Please write an essay to explain why you are applying for a scholarship. Because some scholarships have a need criterion, describe your financial need.
- 8) Please describe in your own words:
 - a. What character traits you possess that have helped you to overcome personal adversity
 - b. Your degree of commitment to pursue a college education
 - c. How you anticipate making a contribution to society
- 9) What activities (academic, athletic, cultural, community-related, occupational, etc.) do you participate in that most build and reflect your character?
- 10) The Common Application (2007-2008) lists these essay options:
 - a. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
 - b. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national or international concern and its importance to you.
 - c. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
 - d. Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you and explain that influence.
 - e. A range of academic interests, personal perspectives and life experiences add much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrates the importance of diversity to you.
 - f. Topic of your choice.

