

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY EXAMPLE

The University values an educational environment that provides all members of the campus community with opportunities to grow and develop intellectually, personally, culturally and socially. In order to give us a more complete picture of you as an individual, please tell us about the particular life experiences, perspectives, talents, commitments and/or interests you will bring to our campus. In other words, how will your presence enrich our community?

For a moment the yellow flag hangs in the air, a delicate kite released from its string. Then with a vengeance it comes screaming back to earth. I snap out of my trance just in time to miss catching it as it crashes to the ground. This summer I learned how to perform in the color guard of the Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin marching band. Learning a new skill requires patience and persistence. This new experience required double portions of both. The pressure is immense. Wrong notes are drowned out by a multitude of other voices in the band, one flag in the air while the others are down screams your mistake to the world. Despite the many obstacles, at the end of the summer I was able to perform the complicated routines. During high school and the past summers, I have had unique opportunities that have helped shape my personality. Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin, a summer marching band, varsity tennis and soccer, as well as drama, all stressed teamwork. I can effectively work as part of a group and as an individual. In a group you are responsible to learn and perform your duties so that the operation, whether it is sports or music, works efficiently and runs smoothly. National Honor Society taught the value of leadership and community service. The responsibility in caring for your community has had a large impression upon me. A cheerful attitude is an important part to community service, a lesson I try to adhere to.

Like many incoming freshmen I'm undecided about my major. Instead of a liability I look at this as an exciting opportunity. The future is the only frontier left for man to explore on earth. Now it is my opportunity to explore this mysterious world. To uncover the secrets of the future will

be a truly remarkable experience. During my freshman year I plan to take core classes and also hope to explore different fields of study. I enjoy science, fine arts, English and history. I love to learn no matter what the subject. I am gratified by learning and delighted by the prospect of attaining knowledge about an unfamiliar subject. My curiosity drives my obsession for knowledge and feeds my appetite to consume every interesting fact. Every new bit of information is a golden treasure to be admired and hoarded by the mind. By the love to discover the unknown, every subject is a fascinating adventure to me.

WORD COUNT = 410

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY EXAMPLE #2

The University values an educational environment that provides all members of the campus community with opportunities to grow and develop intellectually, personally, culturally, and socially. In order to give us a more complete picture of you as an individual, please tell us about the particular life experiences, perspectives, talents, commitments, and/or interests you will bring to our campus. In other words, how will you enrich our community?

ABBA declared in “Thank You for the Music”, “Mother says I was a dancer before I could walk, she says I began to sing long before I could talk.” My own mother has always told me that I sang from the time I was born. My parents knew I was connected to music when the only thing that could stop me from crying was a few choruses of “Old McDonald”. Music has always been a huge part of my life and continues to mold me into the adult I am becoming.

When I was only five years old, I sang “A Whole New World” at my first recital. As a young, shy, girl who hid behind her mother’s leg and clung on for dear life, this was a huge accomplishment for me. After overcoming what seemed to be a great obstacle, my confidence grew and I realized how much fun being on stage could be. Performing gave me a new sense of pride and self-assuredness. The more I sang in front of people, the less afraid I became to share other qualities of myself with them as well.

I believe music, singing and performing were my first stepping stones to becoming a strong and secure individual. This confidence, which I found through singing, is not only good for future “on stage” performances but also for my life in general. I can use these skills to better work with other people and depict myself in a positive and approachable way.

Though singing has mostly been a leisure activity, there have also been times that I have competed. At the age of twelve, I flew to Los Angeles with my mother to compete in the *Best New Talent Contest*. Preparing for this contest took hours of practice and dedication. I wanted to perform to my fullest potential. I worked hard to perfect the songs and impress the judges.

Again; music, singing, and performing helped me develop additional attributes that I could utilize in many other areas of my life; whether it be in friendships, my academics, or co-curricular. The focus and determination I learned when I was younger has shaped me into the determined and perseverant person I am today.

In addition to teaching me life skills, music brings great joy into my life. It provides a sanctuary when I'm stressed and relieves pain. It's a great way for me to release tension and clear my head. It allows me to bring joy to others, which in return brings joy to me. I have sung numerous times at my church and also volunteer to sing carols for nursing homes around Christmas time. For me, there is truly nothing better than to use my talent in a selfless way. Seeing the joy I can bring to others by simply using my voice is one of the most rewarding things I can do. This has taught me to use all the gifts I have to their fullest. I discovered how to do this with my voice, and now also want to use my brain, work ethic, understanding, and my other positive skills to their fullest as well.

My love and passion for music has sculpted me into the unique and diverse person I am today. I don't know what I'd do without music in my life. So, as ABBA sang, "Thank you for the music, for giving it to me"!

WORD COUNT: 566

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY EXAMPLE #3

Tell us about a talent, experience, contribution, or personal quality you will bring to the University of California.

Coleridge said, “What begins in fear usually ends in folly.” Fear is one of the strongest emotions that humans experience. It can be paralyzing, and some universal fears are of common objects, such as spiders, snakes, dogs, germs, thunderstorms, and injections. Almost everyone has felt a fear of failure at some time in their life. Failure is not something that anyone wants, but fearing it can make success harder to achieve. I believe that one of my strengths is that I do not fear failure.

Sports can bring out the best and worst of people’s character. I believe that cross country especially shows this. My freshman year of high school, I went out for the cross country team. I liked middle school track meets, and even though I had only run one cross country race, I thought that it would be a good sport for me. Before the first day of practice I had never run more than a mile and a half in my life. I was the slowest runner on the team. I couldn’t even run the entire warm up, while other members of the team were barely breaking a sweat. I won’t lie and say that being the slowest was fun, but I think that it did make me a better person. I realized that if I worked hard, I could get better. Even though for the first few meets I was near the back, I got a little bit faster each time. By the end of the season, I was still a JV runner, but I had moved up on the team. The only reason I improved as much as I did was the hard work I put in in and out of practice. In my junior year, I finally earned my varsity spot. I am proud of my accomplishments in cross country. I know that if I would have let the failure I was experiencing when I first started convince me to quit, I would have missed out of many memories, friends, and personal achievements.

When I try something new, I never expect to fail. I tell myself that I will be able to succeed, and then I do everything I can to make that happen. If someone tells me that I can't do something, I will take their criticism into consideration. They may be trying to help me, but if their criticism is baseless, I won't dwell on it. Running hurdles in track has helped me establish this attitude. A great quote that has inspired me through my many races and falls goes, "Every hurdler I know has hit a hurdle hard, or fell over one... Don't be afraid to fall, because you're going to. It's what you do afterwards that matters" (Laron Bennett). Remembering that everyone has taken a hard fall or had a bad race, I can push myself to run the best I can. Fearing the hurdles makes it nearly impossible to have a good race. Before every race, I have a plan in my head to win that race. Life is like my hurdle races in many ways. Obstacles will always get in the way and falls will happen, but to win, I have to push through that and run fast and push myself.

Certain degrees of failure will happen in everyone's lives, but two good qualities to have are the ability not to fear the failure and the ability to work past and through the failure to success. I have learned from cross country and hurdling that I possess these characteristics, and I put them to use in my life.

WORD COUNT = 601