**Supplemental Essays**

Many schools have a supplement to the Common Application in which they ask questions of their own choosing, including essays. By doing outstanding work on a school’s supplemental essays, you can show the school that your interest is genuine.

**General Tips**

* Be honest.
* Write in your own voice.
* Be specific.
* Differentiate yourself from others.
* On questions that ask why you are interested in a certain school, program, or major, make sure you have done your research.
* Do not try to recycle essays that don’t really fit the question.
* Do not exceed the word limit.

**Sample supplemental essay questions**

*Because questions change from year to year, these samples are for informational purposes only, and do not necessarily represent the exact questions you will have to answer when applying to certain schools.*

**Old Common App Short Essay**

*This essay is no longer on the Common App, but many schools will have similar essays in their supplements.*

Please brieﬂy elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences in the space below (150 words).

**CU Boulder**

*CU is moving to the Common Application for 2014. Below are their essay questions from this year. It is likely that they will have similar questions in their supplement.*

***Essay A*** (required, maximum 500 words)

The University of Colorado Boulder’s Flagship 2030 strategic plan promotes exceptional teaching, research, scholarship, creative works, and service distinguishing us as a premier university. We strive to foster a diverse and inclusive community for all that engages each member in opportunities for academic excellence, leadership, and a deeper understanding of the world in which we live.

Given the statement above, how do you think you could enrich our diverse and inclusive community, and what are your hopes for your college experience?

***Essay B*** (required, maximum 250 words). Choose one of the following:

1. Who are the influential people in your life? How have they contributed to your development as a person?
2. Briefly discuss how your family, school, neighborhood, and background have impacted your educational goals and aspirations.
3. Discuss any events or special circumstances that have affected your academic record, as well as any adversities you have overcome.

**Montana State**

What do you consider to be the most significant factor in your decision to apply to MSU?

**USC**

SHORT ANSWER

In approximately one paragraph, please address the following prompt:

Describe your academic interests and how you plan to pursue them at USC. Please feel free to address your first- and second-choice major selections.

QUICK TAKES

Describe yourself in three words:

Favorite food:

Favorite fictional character:

Greatest invention of all time:

What do you like to do for fun?

Role model:

Favorite book:

Best movie of all time:

Favorite musical performer/band or composer:

Dream job:

**Stanford**

Candidates respond to all three essay topics using at least 250 words, but not exceeding the space provided.

1. Stanford students possess intellectual vitality. Reflect on an idea or experience that has been important to your intellectual development.
2. Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate—and us—know you better.
3. What matters to you, and why?