

Great Topic Ideas for College Application Essays

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY TOPICS

- Talk about a particular experience or interest that has added significant meaning to your life.
- What has helped you develop and grow over several years?
- What is motivating you to devote between four and six years of your life to studying at a particular college or university?
- What plans do you have once you have obtained your degree?
- What is it about this particular discipline that appeals to you?
- Do you have any long-ranging career plans?
- How will your degree help you meet your objectives?
- What particular qualities, characteristics or skills set you apart from other applicants? How did you come to have these qualities or skills?
- Look back at your childhood. How did you develop particular interests?
- Did your background and upbringing shape your interests?
- Take an outside view of yourself. What words would your friends use to describe you?
- Do your experiences include a moment of revelation, a time when your senses were awakened to something new? Use your **application essay** to tell your readers about this experience.
- Do you have aspirations for the future? And, with the benefit of hindsight, is there anything you would change about the past?
- From a career perspective, what do you envision yourself to be doing ten years hence?
- What is the one thing in the entire world you would most like to be doing now? Is there a particular place you would like to be or a particular person you would like to be with?
- What mission do you want to accomplish in the long term?
- With what attitude or philosophy do you approach life? Share those qualities with

your readers.

- Was there an especially difficult period you had to face? What did you do to get through this tough time?
- Did this difficulty change your view of life?
- What experience in your life did you find most joyful and/or rewarding?
- How have your career objectives been shaped by your life experiences?
- On your journey, have you encountered victory and disaster? What was your method of dealing with these encounters? Are you able to say you countered them with modesty or fortitude?
- Has it ever been the case that you failed to achieve something you really wanted? What was your response? Have you ever felt dissatisfied or disappointed with yourself?
- Put yourself in the place of a stage performer. Think about how you would feel before a big performance where you had a leading role.
- Take an important experience and analyze it. Have you ever face a moral dilemma or had to take a risk? What was the impact?
- Have you been influenced by an important intellectual encounter?
- Describe your learning philosophy.
- Discuss how an event can alter an individual's plans or direction.
- What hopes do you have of your future career?
- Has there ever been a time when you faced a mighty struggle and were triumphant? How did you feel?
- What is the single biggest contribution you have ever made to any element of your life?
- Tell your readers about your academic record and achievements.
- Describe an important person (real, fictional, dead or alive) that you would like to talk to and why.
- Tell about a particular person who influenced you significantly and tell your readers what that influence was.
- What qualities does a student need to have to be successful?
- How important is a college education to you?
- Is there any artist – actor, musician or writer – that has influenced your thinking?



Why was this person so important? Did they give you another perspective on life?

- Have you ever written and delivered a speech to a group or have you ever had an article published?
- Is there a particularly significant achievement you would like to share? What was this achievement and who helped you?
- Let your readers see your personality. Describe some of the negative things as well as the positive things about yourself. What would you like to change or improve about yourself?
- Do you have any particularly strong or prominent traits? Have you strong convictions or is there any particular philosophy you adhere to?
- Describe the most memorable experience in your life.
- Have you undertaken any research projects? Is there any research work you would like to do?
- Describe a book that has especially influenced you? This is a good prompt when you need interesting **college application essay topics**.
- Are there any community or extracurricular activities you take part in? What is it about these activities that appeals to you?
- Say why you would especially like to join a specific university or college.
- What subject do you want to study? What are your academic aspirations?

