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
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• 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?