

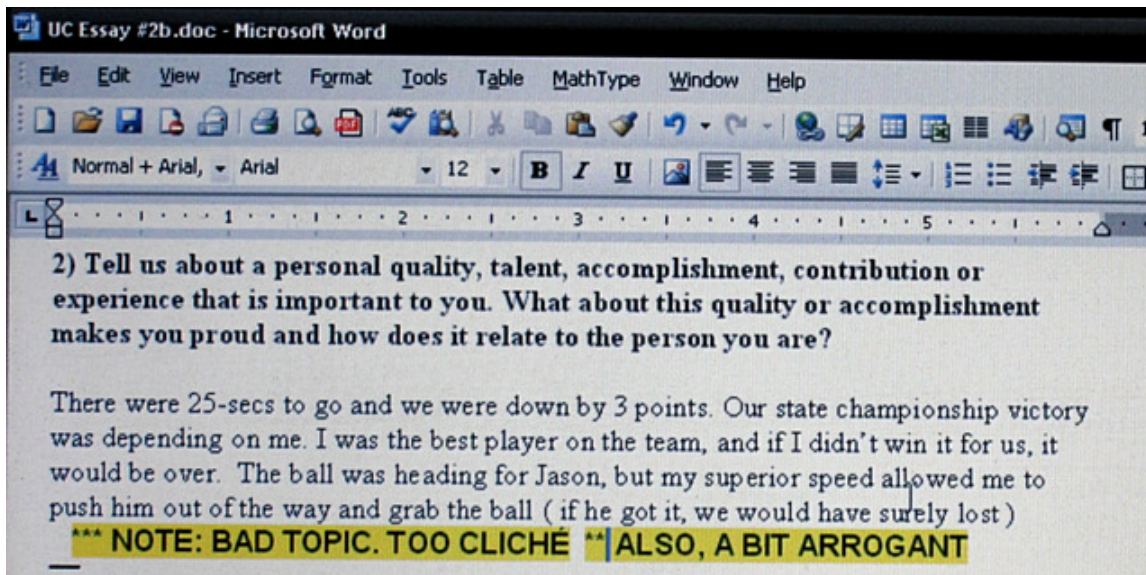


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unlike many other places that actually do not know what they are talking about.*



College Application Essays

A lot of students have 4.0 GPA's and 1500 SAT / 33 ACT scores. How, then, do college admissions staff decide who to admit or reject among the pool of well-qualified applicants? What would you do if you had to decide?

The college application essay is essentially a written interview, which gives you the chance to show what you have that other applicants don't. Not only that, but it also shows admissions officers that you possess a reasonable ability to communicate and write. Thus, a good essay can be the deciding factor between two equally qualified candidates.

WARNING: Parents & friends, though well-intentioned, are not usually able to determine what makes a good college admissions essay. THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ESSAY THAT SOUNDS GREAT and an essay THAT COLLEGES WANT.



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Our College Application Essay Help

Being in the unique position of having read hundreds of college admissions essays and also knowing who got accepted to what college, we know what a good essay looks like.

Step 1:

We help you pick out a topic, and look at the other essays in your essay "set" to make sure the topics combined represent YOU in a holistic manner. We point out overused and cliché topics to help you pick out something that is uniquely you and highlights your strengths.

Step 2:

We help you outline and write your essay. (We NEVER write the essay for you. That's your job, and we want YOUR personality and YOUR voice to come through)

Step 3:

We proofread the essay, work on the style and tone, help you word it better, and fix any grammatical errors. We make sure your essay doesn't sound too weak, too dramatic, too arrogant, or too "sophisticated"

(Instead of the "one-size fits all" pricing approach of other companies, we charge based on how much help you actually need)

Usually we meet with the student for about 30 minutes to discuss topics. Then the student emails us with their essays, and we spend time reading and editing the essays (usually 10 - 15 minutes). Essays needing less work take less time, and essay taking more work take more time.



The UC Essay Prompts

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.

Things to consider: A leadership role can mean more than just a title. It can mean being a mentor to others, acting as the person in charge of a specific task, or taking the lead role in organizing an event or project. Think about what you accomplished and what you learned from the experience. What were your responsibilities?

Did you lead a team? How did your experience change your perspective on leading others? Did you help to resolve an important dispute at your school, church, in your community or an organization? And your leadership role doesn't necessarily have to be limited to school activities. For example, do you help out or take care of your family?

2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

Things to consider: What does creativity mean to you? Do you have a creative skill that is important to you? What have you been able to do with that skill? If you used creativity to solve a problem, what was your solution? What are the steps you took to solve the problem?

How does your creativity influence your decisions inside or outside the classroom? Does your creativity relate to your major or a future career?

3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

Things to consider: If there's a talent or skill that you're proud of, this is the time to share it. You don't necessarily have to be recognized or have received awards for your talent (although if you did and you want to talk about it, feel free to do so). Why is this talent or skill meaningful to you?

Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent? Does your talent or skill allow you opportunities in or outside the classroom? If so, what are they and how do they fit into your schedule?

4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

Things to consider: An educational opportunity can be anything that has added value to your educational experience and better prepared you for college. For example, participation in an honors or academic enrichment program, or enrollment in an academy that's geared toward an occupation or a major, or taking advanced courses that interest you — just to name a few.

If you choose to write about educational barriers you've faced, how did you overcome or strive to overcome them? What personal characteristics or skills did you call on to overcome this challenge? How did overcoming this barrier help shape who are you today?

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Things to consider: A challenge could be personal, or something you have faced in your community or school. Why was the challenge significant to you? This is a good opportunity to talk about any obstacles



1 you've faced and what you've learned from the experience. Did you have support from someone else or
2 did you handle it alone?
3

4 If you're currently working your way through a challenge, what are you doing now, and does that affect
5 different aspects of your life? For example, ask yourself, "How has my life changed at home, at my
6 school, with my friends or with my family?"
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8 **6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this**
9 **interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.**

10
11 Things to consider: Many students have a passion for one specific academic subject area, something
12 that they just can't get enough of. If that applies to you, what have you done to further that interest?
13 Discuss how your interest in the subject developed and describe any experience you have had inside and
14 outside the classroom — such as volunteer work, internships, employment, summer programs,
15 participation in student organizations and/or clubs — and what you have gained from your involvement.
16

17 Has your interest in the subject influenced you in choosing a major and/or future career? Have you been
18 able to pursue coursework at a higher level in this subject (honors, AP, IB, college or university work)?
19 Are you inspired to pursue this subject further at UC, and how might you do that?
20

21 **7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**
22

23 Things to consider: Think of community as a term that can encompass a group, team or a place — like
24 your high school, hometown or home. You can define community as you see fit, just make sure you talk
25 about your role in that community. Was there a problem that you wanted to fix in your community?
26

27 Why were you inspired to act? What did you learn from your effort? How did your actions benefit others,
28 the wider community or both? Did you work alone or with others to initiate change in your community?
29

30 **8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you**
31 **stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?**
32

33 Things to consider: If there's anything you want us to know about you, but didn't find a question or
34 place in the application to tell us, now's your chance. What have you not shared with us that will highlight
35 a skill, talent, challenge or opportunity that you think will help us know you better?
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37 From your point of view, what do you feel makes you an excellent choice for UC? Don't be afraid to brag
38 a little.
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The Common App Essay Prompts

Personal Essay

Please write an essay (250 words minimum) on a topic of your choice or on one of the options listed below. Please indicate your topic by checking the appropriate box. This personal essay helps us become acquainted with you as a person and student, apart from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It will also demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself.

- 1) Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- 2) Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- 3) Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- 4) 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.
- 5) A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds 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 demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- 6) Topic of your choice.

The Universal App Essay Prompts

Short Essay

Tell us more about one of your extracurricular, volunteer, or employment activities (100-150 words). If you need more space, please attach your response to the end of the application.

Personal Statement

Please write an essay (500 words or fewer) that demonstrates your ability to develop and communicate your thoughts. Some ideas include: a person you admire; a life-changing experience; or your viewpoint on a particular current event. Please attach your response to the end of your application

College Admissions
Our Students GET IN



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UCLA

JUDITH L. SMITH
Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

March 18, 2009

Hello and congratulations on your admission to UCLA! You were admitted to UCLA for your superb talents and commitment to intellectual achievement, and you should feel very proud.

I am sending you this package to give you a sense of the extraordinary choices available for your academic career at UCLA. We offer an unmatched range of undergraduate programs because we believe that there is no typical UCLA applicant, student, or faculty member—the only common denominator at UCLA is an appetite for excellence.

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Our Student = Admitted: UCLA FALL 2009 **Actual letter of acceptance**



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University of California
Berkeley



University of California, Berkeley
 110 Sproul Hall #5800 | Berkeley, CA 94720-5800

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

March 26, 2009

Dear _____

Congratulations! I am pleased to offer you admission to the College of Letters and Science at the University of California, Berkeley for the fall semester 2009.


In light of the outstanding credentials you presented in your application, you and your family have every reason to be proud of your academic and personal achievements. The Admissions staff reviewed more than 48,000 applicants of extraordinary quality before selecting you for

Actual UC Berkeley admission letter of SAT Solutions Student

Our Student = Admitted: UC Berkeley

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO



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 9500 GILMAN DRIVE, LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0321

SANTA BARBARA · SANTA CRUZ

VOICE: 858-534-3490
 FAX: 858-534-4663
<http://revelle.ucsd.edu>

March 19, 2009

Dear _____

Congratulations on your admission to Revelle College, University of California, San Diego.

Revelle College is a college of more than 3,700 students on a campus of 22,500 undergraduates and over 28,000 total undergraduates, graduates, and professional students. The College provides an intimate

Our Student = Admitted: UC San Diego. Actual letter of acceptance

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UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

March 12, 2009

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CA 95616-8507
Tel (530) 752-2971
myadmissions.ucdavis.edu

Dear _____

Congratulations! You have been admitted to the University of California, Davis, in the Biotechnology major. I am delighted to welcome you to our campus for fall quarter 2009. Your outstanding record of academic and personal accomplishments has prepared you well for the UC Davis undergraduate experience. UC Davis is named one of the nation's best values in public education and will prepare you for any career or graduate degree.

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Our Student = Admitted: UC Davis Actual letter of acceptance