BRAINSTORM 2019-2020 COMMON APP PROMPTS

Instructions. The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.) *NOTE: Your Common Application essay should be the same for all colleges. Do not customize it in any way for individual colleges. Colleges that want customized essay responses will ask for them on a supplement form.*

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1.	Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
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2.	The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
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3.	Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
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4.	Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma — anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
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5.	Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
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6.	Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
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7.	Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.
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Adelphi University NY * Agnes Scott College GA * Alaska Pacific University AK * Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences NY * Albertus Magnus College CT * Albion College MI * Albright College PA * Alfred University NY * Allegheny College PA * Alma College MI * Alvernia University PA * AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts NY * American Jewish University CA * American University DC * American University in Bulgaria BGR FY * American University of the Performing Arts NY * American Jewish University CA * American University DC * American Universit
      Beirut (AUB) LBN FY * Amherst College MA * Anderson University (IN) IN * Anna Maria College MA * Antioch College OH * Appalachian State University NC * Arcadia University PA * Arizona State University AZ * Art Academy of Cincinnati OH
       * Arts University Bournemouth * Asbury University KY * Ashland University OH * Assumption College MA * Augsburg University MN * Augustana College (Illinois) IL * Augustana University (South Dakota) SD * Austin College TX * Ave Maria
    University FL * Babson College MA * Baldwin Wallace University OH * Bard College NY * Bard College at Simon's Rock - The Early College MA * Bard College Berlin DEUFY * Barnard College NY * Barry University FL * Barton College NY * Barton College 
   College ME * Bath Spa University GBR FY * Bay Path University MA * Baylor University TX * Becker College MA * Bellarmine University TX * Belmont University TN * Beloit College WI * Benedictine College WS * Benedictine University TX * Benedictine University TX * Belmont University TN * Beloit College WI * Benedictine College WS * Benedictine University MA * Berry College GA * Bethany College WV * Birmingham-Southern College AL * Bishop's University CAN FY * Bloomfield College NJ * Bluffton University OH * Boston
   College MA * Boston University MA * Bournemouth University (UK) GBR FY * Bowdoin College ME * Bowling Green State University-Main Campus OH * Bradley University IL * Brandeis University MA * Brenau University GA * Bridgewater State University MA * Brown University RI * Brunel University Landon GBR FY * Bryant University RI * Bryn Mawr College PA * Bucknell University PA * Butler University IN * Cabrini University PA * Cairn University P
   California College of the Arts CA * California Institute of Technology (Caltech) CA * California Lutheran University CA * California University of Pennsylvania PA * Calvin College MI * Canisius College NY * Capital University OH * Capital Technology University MD * Carleton College MN * Carnegie Mellon University PA * Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar QAT FY * Carroll College (Montana) MT * Carroll University WI * Carthage College WI * Case Western Reserve University
   OH * Castleton University VT * Catawba College NC * Cazenovia College NY * CCAD - Columbus College of Art & Design OH * Cedar Crest College PA * Centenary College of Louisiana LA * Centenary University NJ * Central Connecticut State University CT * Centre College KY * Chaminade University of Honolulu HI * Champlain College VT * Chapman University CA * Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science CA * Chatham University PA * Chicago State University IL *
 Christian Brothers University TN * Christopher Newport University VA * Claream McKenna College CA * Clark Atlanta University GA * Clark University MA * Clark University MA * Clarkeam University OA * Clarkeam College CA * Clark University MA * College of St. Joseph VT * College of St. Scholastica MN * College of the Atlanta University MA * College of St. Joseph VT * College of St. Scholastica MN * College of the Atlanta University MA * College of St. Joseph VT * College of St. Scholastica MN * College Of S
   Columbia University NY * Concordia College NY * Concordia College NY * Concordia University Wisconsin WI * Concordia University Ortland * Concordia University Chicago IL * Concordia University Irvine CA * Concordia University Wisconsin WI * Conco
   University St. Paul MN * Connecticut College CT * Converse College SC * Cornell College IA * Cornell University NY * Covenant College GA * Creighton University NE * CUNY Queens College NY * Curry College MA * D'Youville College NY *
   Daemen College NY * Dartmouth College NH * Davidson College NC * Dean College MA * Defiance College OH * Delaware Valley University PA * Denison University OH * DePaul University II. * DePauw University IN * DeSales University PA * Dharma Realm Buddhist University CA * Dickinson College PA * Dillard University LA * Dominican College NY * Dominican University OF California CA * Doshisha University * The Institute for the Liberal Arts JPN FY * Drake University IA * Drew
 University NJ * Drexel University PA * Drury University MO * Duke Kunshan University CHN FY * Duke University NC * Durham University GBR FY * Eartham College IN * East Carolina University NC * Eastern Connecticut State University CT * Eastern Kentucky University KY * Eastern Mennonite University VA * Eastern Nazarene College MA * Eckerd College FL * Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) CHE FY * Edgewood College WI * Edinboro University of Pennsylvania PA *
Eastern Kentucky University X* - Eastern Mennonite University Ya* - Eastern Mennonite 
   Green Mountain College VT * Grinnell College IA * Guilford College MC * Gustavus Adolphus College MN * Hamilton College NY * Hamiline University (MN) MN * Hampden-Sydney College VA * Hampshire College MA * Hanover College IN * Hartwick College NY * Harvard University MA * Harvey Mudd College CA * Hastings College NE * Haverford College PA * Hawai'i Pacific University HI * Hellenic College MA * Hendrix College AR * High Point University NC * Hilbert College NY *
Hartwick College NT * Hardra'd University MA * Hardray Muda College CA * Hastings College NA * Havari Pacific University Hard Hellenic College MA * Hendra College MA * Hendra College MA * Hendra College MA * Hendra College MA * Houghton College NA * Houghton College MA * Houghton College MA * Houghton College NA * Houghton Na * Houghton College NA * Houghton College NA * Houghton College NA * Houghton College NA * Houghton Na * 
   College PA * La Salle University PA * Lefayette College PA * Lake Erie College OH * Lake Forest College II. * Lawrence Technological University MI * Lewrence University WI * Le Despire PA * Lewis & Clark College OR * Lewis University II. * Lindenwood University MO * Linfield College OR * Lipscomb University TN * List College The Jewish Theological Seminary NY * LIU Brooklyn
 WY *LIU Post NY * Louisana State University A&M-Baton Rouge LA * Lourdes University OH * Lourdes Unive
   Marymount California University CA * Marymount Manhattan College NY * Marymount University VA * Marywille University of St. Louis MO * Marywood University PA * Massachusetts College of Art and Design MA * Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts MA * Maynooth University IRL FY * McDaniel College MD * McKendree University IL * McPherson College KS * MCPHS University MA * Menlo College CA * Mercer University GA * Mercy College NY * Mercyhurst University PA *
   Meredith College NC * Merrimack College MA * Miami University (Ohio) OH * Michigan State University MI * Middle Tennessee State University TN * Middlebury College VT * Millersville University PA * Millikin University IL * Mills College CA * Millsaps College MS * Milwaukee School of Engineering WI * Minerva Schools at KGI CA * Mississippi State University MS * Missouri University of Science and Technology MO * Mitchell College CT * Molloy College NY * Monash University
   AUS FY * Monmouth College (IL) IL * Monmouth University NJ * Montserrat College of Art MA * Moore College of Art and Design PA * Moravian College PA * Morehouse College GA * Morningside College IA * Mount Holyoke College MA * Mount Mary University WI * Mount Saint Mary College NY * Mount Saint Mary's University - Los Angeles CA * Muhlenberg College PA * Muskingum University OH * Naropa University CO * Nazareth College NY * Nebraska Wesleyan
   University NE * Neumann University PA * New College of Florida FL * New England College NH * New England Institute of Technology RI * New Hampshire Institute of Art NH * New Jersey City University NJ * New Jersey Institute of Technology NJ * New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) NY * New York University NY * Newberry College SC * Newbury College MA * Newcastle University GBR FY * Niagara University NY * Nichols College MA * North Carolina A&T State
   University NC * North Carolina State University NC * North Park University NC * Northwest Christian University NC * Northwest Christian University NC * Northwest Office WI * Northwest Christian University OR * Northwest Nazarene University ID * Northwestern University IL * Northwestern University NC * Northwestern University IL * Northwestern University MC * Nor
   NY School of Career & Applied Studies of Touro College & University NY * Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences OH * Oberlin Conservatory of Music OH * Occidental College CA * Oglethorpe University GA * Ohio Northern University OH * Ohio
 University OH * Ohio Wesleyan University OH * Oklahoma City University OK * Old Dominion University VA * Ole Miss - The University of Mississippi MS * Olivet College MI * Oregon State University OR * Otis College of Art and Design CA * Otterbein University OH * Pace University NY * Pacific Lutheran University WA * Pacific University OR * Paul Smith's College NY * Penn State PA * Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts PA * Pepperdine University CA * Philadelphia University OF * Paul Smith's College NY * Penn State PA * Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts PA * Pepperdine University CA * Philadelphia University OF * Paul Smith's College NY * Penn State PA * Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts PA * Pepperdine University OF * Pacific Universi
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   University Riga Business School LVA FY * Ringling College of Art and Design FL * Ripon College WI * Rivier University NH * Roanoke College VA * Robert Gordon University GBR FY * Robert Morris University (PA) PA * Roberts Wesleyan College NY * Rochester Institute of Technology NY * Rockhurst University NJ * Rosemble University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ * Rosemble College PA * Robert Morris University NJ
   Sacred Heart University CT * Sage College of Albany NY * Saint Anselm College NH * Saint Francis University PA * Saint Hool's University (MN) MN * Saint Joseph's College of Maine MR * Saint Joseph's University PA * Saint Leo University FL * Saint Louis University MO * Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus (Spain) ESP FY * Saint Martin's University WA * Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College IN * Saint Mary's College of California CA * Saint Mary's College of Indiana IN * Saint Mary's College of Maine MR * Saint Mary's College of California CA * Saint Mary's College of Maine MR * Saint Mary's College IN * Saint Mary * Saint Mary
   University of Minnesota MN * Saint Michael's College VT * Saint Peter's University NJ * Saint Vincent College PA * Saint Xavier University IL * Salem College NC * Salisbury University MD * Salve Regina University RI * Samford University AL * Santa Clara University CA * Sarah Lawrence College NY * Savannah College of Art and Design GA * School of the Art Institute of Chicago IL * Scripps College CA * Seattle Pacific University WA * Seattle University WA * Sea
    Seton Hill University PA * Sewanee: The University of the South TN * Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania PA * Siena College NY * Sierra Nevada College NV * Simmons College MA * Simpson College IA * Skidmore College NY *
   College MA * Soka University of America CA * South Carolina State University SC * Southeast Missouri State University MO * Southern California Institute of Architecture CA * Southern Connecticut State University CT * Southern Methodist
   University TX * Southern New Hampshire University NH * Southwestern University TX * Spelman College GA * Spring Arbor University MI * Spring Hill College AL * Springfield College MA * St Mary's University * St. Ambrose University IA * St.
   Andrews University (NC) NC * St. Bonaventure University NY * St. Catherine University NN * St. Edward's University TX * St. Francis College NY * St. John Fisher College (MD) MD * St. John's 
 Ollaf College MN * St. Thomas Aquinas College NY * St. Thomas University FI * Stevens University FI
    Plattsburgh NY * SUNY Polytechnic Institute NY * SUNY Potsdam NY * SUNY Story Brook University NY * SUNY University at Buffalo NY * Susquehanna University PA * Swarthmore College PA * Sweet Briar College VA * Syracuse University NY
       * Temple University PA * Texas Christian University TX * Texas Lutheran University TX * The American Musical and Dramatic Academy NY * The American University in Cairo EGY FY * The American University of Paris FRA FY * The American Universi
*Temple University PA * Texas Christian University TX * Texas Lutheran University TX * The American University TX * The American University TX * The American University TX * The College of Namerica DX * The College of Saint Rose NY * The College of Saint Rose NY * The College of William & Mary VA * The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art NY * The Culinary Institute of America (CA) CA * The Culinary Institute of America (NY) NY * The Culinary Institute of America (TX) TX * The Evergreen State College WA * The George Washington University DX * The New School NY * The Ohio State University of Arizona AZ * The University of Findlay OH * The University of Hong Kong HKG FY * The University of Kansas KS * The University of Maine ME * The University of Texas Chocaville TX * The University of Un
   Washington University DC * Truman State University MO * Tufts University MA * Tulane University LA * Tusculum University TN * Underwood International College * Union College NY * Unity College ME * Universidad Carlos III de Madrid ESP FY * Universidad del Este (UNE) PR * Universidad del Este (UNE) PR * Universidad del Sagrado Corazon PR * University College Dublin IRL FY * University of Aberdeen GBR FY * University of Akron Main Campus OH * University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) AL * Uni
 of Bridgeport CT * University of Bristol GBR FY * University of Central Florida FL * University of Central Missouri MO * University of Chicago IL * University of Cincinnati OH * University of Cincinnati OH * University of Concentral Missouri MO * University of Colorado Boulder CO * University of Connecticut CT * University of Dallas TX * University of Dayton OH * University of Delaware DE * University of Denver CO * University of Derby GBR FY * University of Detroit Mercy MI *
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   Presque Isle ME * University of Mary Washington VA * University of Maryland * University of Massachusetts Amherst MA * University of Massachusetts Boston MA * University of Massachusetts Dartmouth MA * University of Massachusetts Lowell MA * University of Miami FL * University of Michigan Flint MI * University of Michigan MI * University of Minnesota Duluth MN * University of Minnesota D
   Morris MN * University of Minnesota Rochester MN * University of Minnesota Twin Cities MN * University of Missouri MO * University of Missouri-Kansas City MO * University of Missouri-St Louis MO * University of Mount Union OH * University of Nebraska-Lincoln NE * University of New Ashe-Lincoln NE * University of New Ashe-Lincoln NE * University of New Carolina Asheville NC *
   University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill NC * University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill NC * University of North Carolina at Charlotte NC * University of North Carolina Greensboro NC * University of North Carolina Wilmington NC * University of North Florida FL * University of North Texas TX * University of Northern Colorado CO * University of Northern lowa IA * University of Norte Dame IN * University of Oregon OR * University of Pennsylvania PA * University of Pittsburgh PA * University of Plymouth GBR FY *
    University of Portland OR * University of Providence MT * University of Poget Sound WA * University of Redlands CA * University of Rhode Island RI * University of Richmond VA * University of Rochester NY * University of Saint Francis-Fort
   Wayne Indiana IN * University of Saint Joseph CT * University of San Diego CA * University of San Francisco CA * University of Sheffield GBR FY * University of Southern California CA * University of Southern Maine ME * University of St. Thomas (MN) MN * University of St. Thomas GBR FY * University of Tampa FL * University of the Pacific CA * University of the Sciences PA *
 University of the West CA * University of Toledo OH * University of Vermont VT * University of Virginia VA * University of Warwick GBR FY * University of West London GBR FY * University of Wisconsin-Madison WI * University of Wisconsin-Madison WI * University of Worcester (UK) GBR FY * University of Wyoming WY * Upper lowa University IA * Urbana University-A Branch Campus of Franklin University OH * Ursinus College PA * Ursuline College OH * Utica College NY *
    Valoaraiso University IN * Vanderbilt University TN * Vassar College NY * Vermont Technical College VT * Villanova University PA * Virginia Commonwealth University VA * Wabash College IN * Wagner College NY * Wake Forest University NC
             Walsh University OH * Warner Pacific University OR * Warren Wilson College NC * Wartburg College IA * Washington & Jefferson College PA * Washington and Lee University VA * Washington College MD * Washington University in St.
Louis MO* Watkins College of Art Design & Film TN* Wayne State University M1* Webb Institute N1* Webbs to University M2* Wellesley College MA* Wells College M3* Wells College M3* Wentworth Institute of Technology M3* Wesleyan University CT* Wester University Of Pennsylvania PA* West Virginia University W1* Webb Institute N1* Webbs University CT* Western M2* College M3* Wells College M3* Wells College M3* Wentworth University M3* Western New England University M3* Western M3* College M3* College M3* Western M3* College M4* Western M3* College M3* Western M3* College M4* Western M3* College M3* Western M3* College M4* Colleg
 Jewell College MO * William Paterson University of NJ NJ * Williams College MA * Wison College PA * Wittenberg University OH * Wofford College SC * Woodbury University CA * Worcester Polytechnic Institute MA * Wright State University OH * Xavier University OH * Xavier University of Louisiana LA * Yale NUS College SGP FY * Yale University CT * York College of Pennsylvania PA *
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