



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.

- + **Challenges/Other Circumstances (250 & optional)**
- + **Additional Information (300 words & optional)**
- + **Résumé (upload for certain schools)**
- + **Portfolio (for certain programs)**
- + **School-Specific Supplemental Materials**

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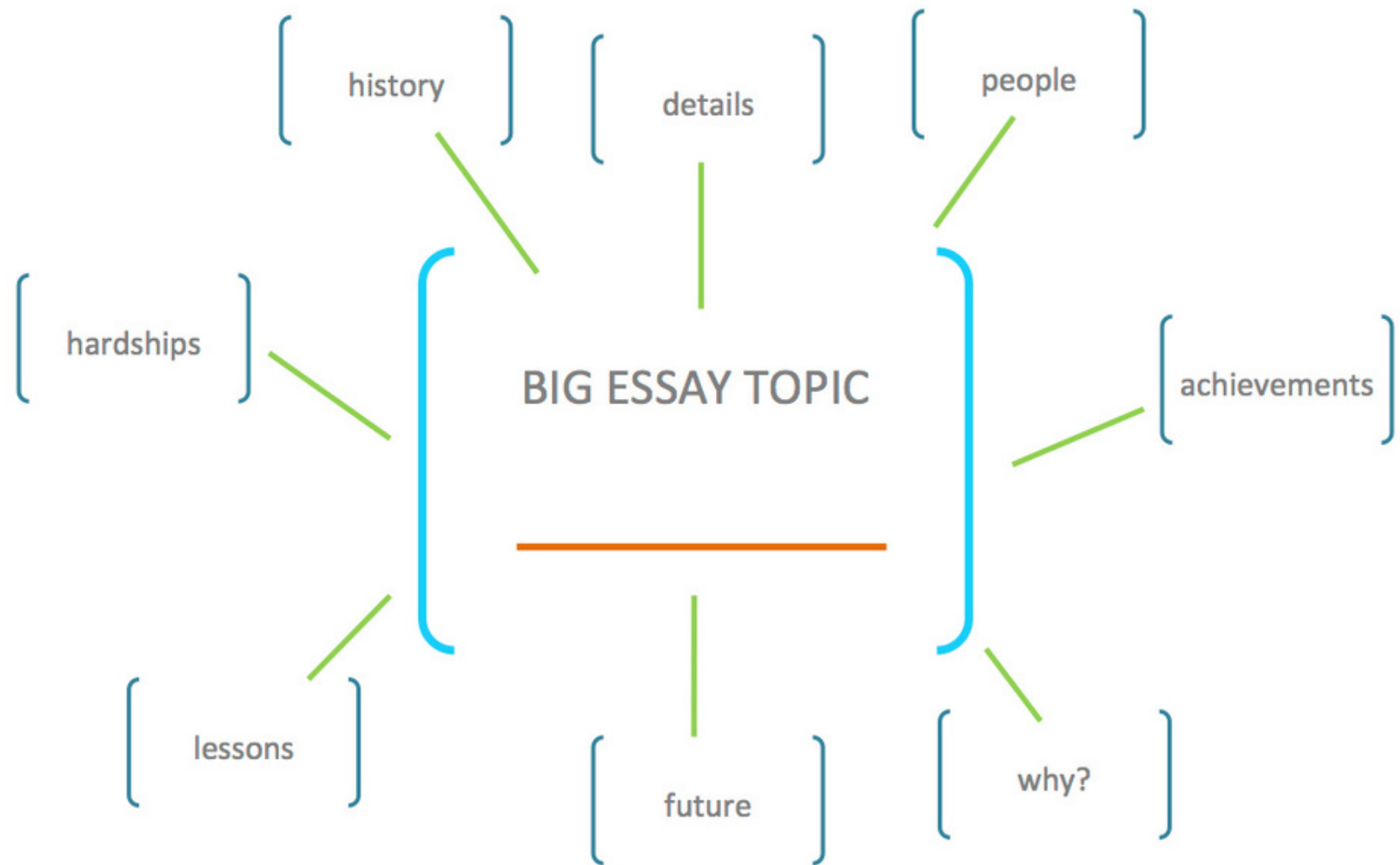
2026-2027 essay prompts

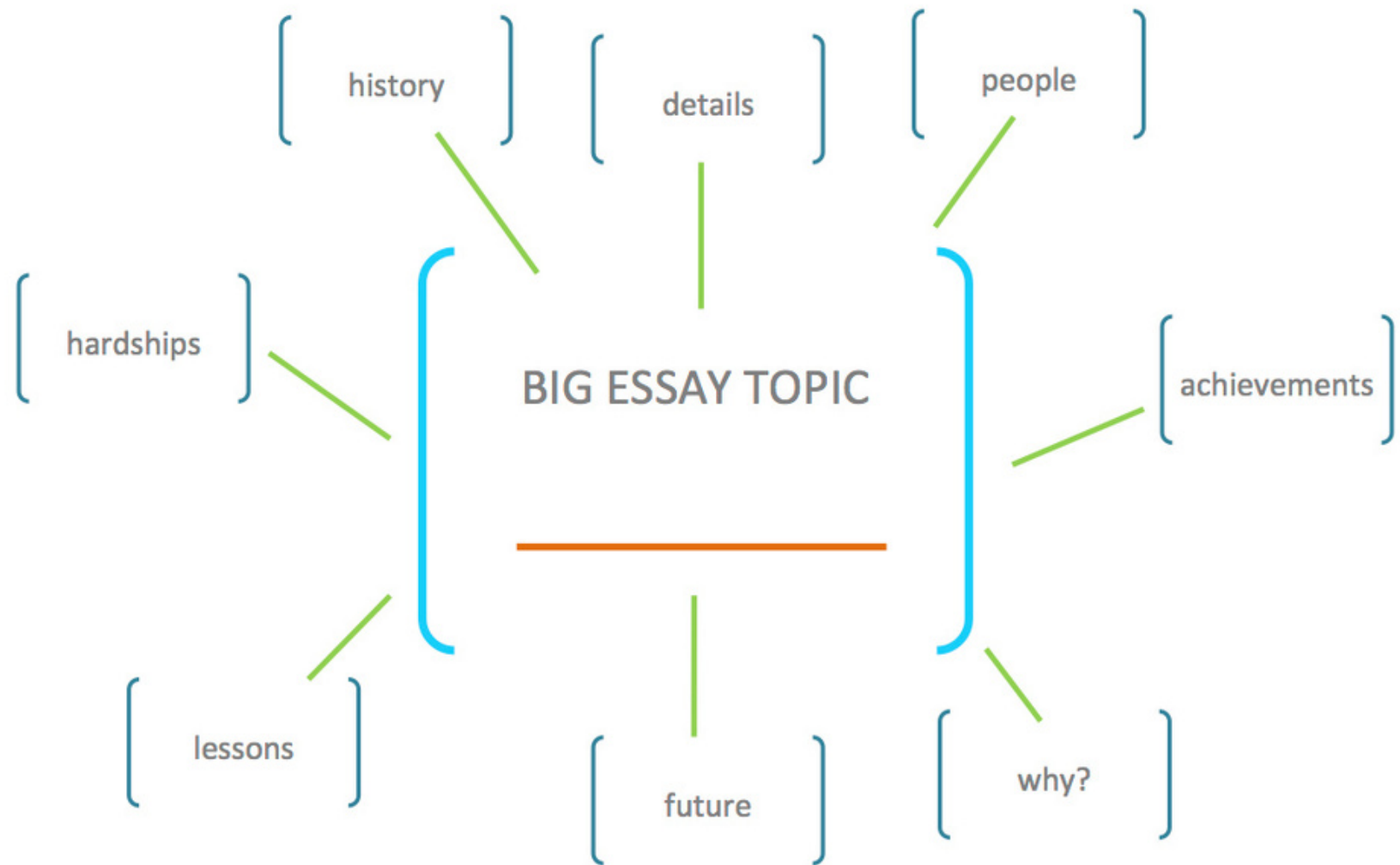
1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
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2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter 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. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
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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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member colleges



Aberystwyth U * Abilene Christian U * Adelphi U * Agnes Scott College * Alaska Pacific U * Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences * Albertus Magnus College * Albion College * Albright College * Alfred U * Allegheny College * Alliance U * Alma College * Alvernia U * AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts * AMDA The American Musical and Dramatic Academy * American Academy of Art College * American International College * American U * American U in Bulgaria * American U of Beirut (AUB) * Amherst College * Anderson U (IN) * Anglo-American U in Prague * Anna Maria College * Antioch College * Appalachian State U * Aquinas College * Arcadia U * Arizona State U * Arkansas Baptist College * Art Academy of Cincinnati * Arts U Bournemouth, UK * Asbury U * Ashland U * Assumption College * Auburn U * Augsburg U * Augusta U * Augustana College (Illinois) * Augustana U (South Dakota) * Aurora U * Austin College * Austin Peay State U * Ave Maria U * Babson College * Baker College * Baldwin Wallace U * Ball State U * Bard College * Bard College at Simon's Rock — The Early College * Bard College Berlin * Barnard College * Barry U * Barton College * Bates College * Bay Path U * Baylor U * Beacon College * Bellarmine U * Bellevue College — Health Sciences, Education & Wellness Institute * Belmont Abbey College * Belmont U * Beloit College * Benedict College * Benedictine College * Benedictine U (IL) * Bennington College * Bentley U * Berry College * Bethany College * Bethel U * Birmingham-Southern College * Bishop's U * Blackburn College * Bloomfield College * Bluffton U * Boston College * Boston U * Bournemouth U (UK) * Bowdoin College * Bowling Green State U — Main Campus * Bradley U * Brandeis U * Brenau U * Brevard College * Bridgewater College * Bridgewater State U * Brown U * Brunel U London * Bryant U * Bryn Athyn College * Bryn Mawr College * Bucknell U * Buena Vista U * Bushnell U * Butler U * Cabrini U * Cairn U * Caldwell U * California College of the Arts * California Institute of Technology (Caltech) * California Lutheran U * Calumet College of St. Joseph * Calvin U * Canisius College * Capital U * Capitol Technology U * Carleton College * Carlow U * Carnegie Mellon U * Carnegie Mellon U in Qatar * Carroll College (Montana) * Carroll U * Carthage College * Case Western Reserve U * Catawba College * Cedar Crest College * Centenary College of Louisiana * Centenary U * Central Connecticut State U * Central Michigan U * Central Washington U * Centre College * Chaminade U of Honolulu * Champlain College * Chapman U * Charles R. Drew U of Medicine and Science * Charleston Southern U * Chatham U * Chestnut Hill College * Chicago State U * Chowan U * Christian Brothers U * Christopher Newport U * Citadel Military College of South Carolina * Claflin U * Claremont McKenna College * Clarion U of Pennsylvania * Clark Atlanta U * Clark U * Clarkson U * Cleary U * Clemson U * Cleveland Institute of Art * Cleveland State U * Clinton College * Coastal Carolina U * Coe College * Colby College * Colby-Sawyer College * Colgate U * College of Charleston * College of Mount Saint Vincent * College of Saint Benedict * College of St. Scholastica * College of the Atlantic * College of the Holy Cross * College of Wooster * Colorado College * Colorado Mesa U * Colorado School of Mines * Colorado State U * Columbia College * Columbia College (SC) * Columbia College Chicago * Columbia College Hollywood * Columbia U * Columbus College of Art & Design * Concordia College * Concordia * College at Moorhead * Concordia U Ann Arbor * Concordia U Chicago * Concordia U Irvine * Concordia U Wisconsin * Concordia U, St. Paul * Connecticut College * Converse College * Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art * Cornell College * Cornell U * Cornerstone U * Cornish College of the Arts * Covenant College * Creighton U * Culver-Stockton College * Curry College * D'Youville College * Daemen College * Dakota Wesleyan U * Dartmouth College * Davenport U * Davidson College * DePaul College * Delaware State U * Delaware Valley U * Denison U * DePaul U * DePauw U * DeSales U * Dharma Realm Buddhist U * Dickinson College * Dillard U * Dominican College * Dominican U (IL) * Dominican U of California * Doshisha U, The Institute for the Liberal Arts * Drake U * Drew U * Drexel U * Drury U * Duke Kunshan U * Duke U * Duquesne U * Durham U * Earlham College * East Carolina U * East Stroudsburg U of Pennsylvania * Eastern Connecticut State U * Eastern Illinois U * Eastern Mennonite U * Eastern Michigan U * Eastern Nazarene College * Eastern Oregon U * Eckerd College * École hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) * Edgewood College * Edinboro U of Pennsylvania * Edinburgh Napier U * Elizabeth City State U * Elizabethtown College * Elmhurst U * Elmira College * Elms College * Elon U * Emerson College * Emmanuel College (MA) * Emory & Henry College * Emory U * ESCP Europe Business School * Eureka College * Evangel U * Fairfield U * Fairleigh Dickinson U * Felician U * Ferrum College * Fisher College * Fisk U * Fitchburg State U * Flagler College * Florida Agricultural & Mechanical U * Florida Atlantic U * Florida Gulf Coast U * Florida Institute of Technology * Florida International U * Florida Memorial U * Florida Polytechnic U * Florida Southern College * Florida State U * Fontbonne U * Fordham U * Fort Lewis College * Framingham State U * Franklin & Marshall College * Franklin College * Franklin Pierce U * Franklin U Switzerland * Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering * Fresno Pacific U * Frostburg State U * Furman U * Gannon U * Gardner-Webb U * George Fox U * George Mason U * Georgia College * Georgia Institute of Technology * Georgia State U * Georgian Court U * Gettysburg College * Georgetown * Goldey-Beacom College * Gonzaga U * Gordon College * Goshen College * Goucher College * Governors State U * Grace College * Greenville U * Greensboro College * Grinnell College * Guilford College * Gustavus Adolphus College * Gwynedd Mercy U * Hamline U (MN) * Hampden-Sydney College * Hampshire College * Hampton U * Hanover College * Hardin-Simmons U * Harrisburg U of Science and Technology * Hartwick College * Harvard U * Harvey Mudd College * Hastings College * Haverford College * Hawai'i Pacific U * Heidelberg U * Hellenic College * Hendrix College * High Point U * Hilbert College * Hillsdale College * Hiram College * Hobart and William Smith Colleges * Hofstra U * Hollins U * Holy Cross College * Holy Family U * Holy Names U * Hood College * Hope College * Houghton College * Howard U * Husson U * IE U — Madrid Campus * IE U — Segovia Campus * Illinois College * Illinois Institute of Technology * Illinois Wesleyan U * Immaculata U * Indiana State U * Indiana Tech * Indiana U Bloomington * Indiana U — Northwest * Indiana U — Purdue U Indianapolis (IUPUI) * Indiana Wesleyan U (Marion) * Iona College * Iowa State U * Ithaca College * Jackson State U * Jacksonville U * Jacobs U Bremen * James Madison U * John Cabot U in Rome * John Carroll U * Johns Hopkins U * Johnson & Wales U — Charlotte * Johnson & Wales U — Providence * Juniata College * Kalamazoo College * Kansas State U * Kean U * Keene State College * Keiser U Flagship Campus — West Palm Beach Florida * Kennesaw State U * Kent State U * Kentucky Wesleyan College * Kenyon College * Kettering U * Keuka College * Keystone College * King's College * Knox College * Kutztown U of Pennsylvania * La Roche U * La Salle U * Lafayette College * Lake Erie College * Lake Forest College * Lake Superior State U * Landmark College * Lasell U * Lawrence Technological U * Lawrence U * Le Moyne College * Lebanese American U — LAU * Lebanon Valley College * Lees-McRae College * Lehigh U * Lesley U * Lewis & Clark College * Lewis U * Limestone U * Lincoln College * Lincoln Memorial U * Lincoln U of Pennsylvania * Lindenwood U * Linfield U * Lipscomb U * List College The Jewish Theological Seminary * Long Island U * Longwood U * Loras College * Louisiana State U &M — Baton Rouge * Lourdes U * Loyola Marymount U * Loyola U Maryland * Loyola U New Orleans * Luther College * Lycoming College * Lynn U * Lyon College * Macalester College * Madonna U * Maine College of Art & Design * Maine Maritime Academy * Malone U * Manchester U * Manhattan College * Manhattanville College * Manor College * Marian U — Wisconsin * Marietta College * Marist College * Marquette U * Marshall U * Mary Baldwin U * Mary Immaculate College * Maryland Institute College of Art * Marymount California U * Marymount Manhattan College * Marymount U * Maryville U of St. Louis * Maryland U * Massachusetts College of Art and Design * Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts * Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences * Massachusetts Maritime Academy * Maynooth U * McDaniel College * McKendree U * McMurry U * McPherson College * Medaille College * Menlo College * Mercer U * Mercy College * Mercyhurst U * Meredith College * Merrimack College * Messiah U * Methodist U * Metropolitan College of New York * Miami U (Ohio) * Miami-Dade College * Michigan State U * Michigan Technological U * Middle Tennessee State U * Middlebury College * Midway U * Millersville U * Milligan U * Millikin U * Millsaps College * Milwaukee School of Engineering * Minerva Schools at KGI * Misericordia U * Mississippi College * Mississippi State U * Missouri Southern State U * Missouri State U * Missouri U of Science and Technology * Mitchell College * Molloy College * Monash U * Monmouth College (IL) * Monmouth U * Montclair State U * Montreat College * Montserrat College of Art * Moore College of Art and Design * Moravian U * Morehouse College * Morgan State U * Morrisonside College * Mount Aloysius College * Mount Holyoke College * Mount Mary U * Mount Marty U * Mount Saint Mary College * Mount Saint Mary's U, Los Angeles * Mount St. Joseph U * Mount St. Mary's U * MSU Denver * Muhlenberg College * Muskingum U * Napora U * National Louis U * Nazareth College * Nebraska Wesleyan U * Neumann U * New College of Florida * New College of the Humanities * New England College * New England Institute of Technology * New Jersey City U * New Jersey Institute of Technology * New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) * New York School of Career & Applied Studies of Touro College & U * New York U * Newberry College * Newcastle U * Niagara U * Nichols College * Norfolk State U * North American U * North Carolina A & T State U * North Carolina Central U * North Carolina State U * North Central College * North Park U * Northeastern Illinois U * Northeastern U * Northern Illinois U * Northern Kentucky U * Northern Vermont U * Northland College * Northwest Nazarene U * Northwest U * Northwestern U * Northwestern U in Qatar * Northwood U * Norwich U * Notre Dame College (Ohio) * Notre Dame of Maryland U * Nova Southeastern U * Nyack College * Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences * Oberlin Conservatory of Music * Occidental College * Oglethorpe U * Ohio Northern U * Ohio U * Ohio Wesleyan U * Oklahoma City U * Old Dominion U * Ole Miss — The U of Mississippi * Olivet College * Oral Roberts U * Oregon State U * Oregon Tech * Otis College of Art and Design * Otterbein U * Pace U * Pacific Lutheran U * Pacific U * Paine College * Palm Beach Atlantic U * Park U * Paul Smith's College * Penn State * Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts * Pennsylvania College of Art & Design * Pennsylvania College of Technology * Pepperdine U * Piedmont College * Plymouth State U * Point Loma Nazarene U * Point Park U * Pomona College * Portland State U * Pratt Institute * Presbyterian College * Prescott College * Princeton U * Principia College * Providence College * Purchase College, SUNY * Purdue U * Purdue U Fort Wayne * Queen's U, Canada * Queens U of Charlotte * Quincy U * Quinnipiac U * Radford U * Ramapo College of New Jersey * Randolph College * Randolph-Macon College * Reed College * Regent U * Regis College * Regis U * Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute * Rhode Island College * Rhode Island School of Design * Rhodes College * Rice U * Richard Bland College of William and Mary * Richmond The American International U in London * Rider U * Ringling College of Art and Design * Ripon College * Rivier U * Roanoke College * Robert Morris U (PA) * Roberts Wesleyan College * Rochester Institute of Technology * Rockford U * Rockhurst U * Roger Williams U * Rollins College * Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology * Rosemont College * Rowan U * Russell Sage College * Ryerson U * Sacred Heart U * Saginaw Valley State U * Saint Anselm College * Saint Augustine College * Saint Augustine's U * Saint Elizabeth U * Saint Francis U * Saint John's U (MN) * Saint Joseph's College of Maine * Saint Joseph's U * Saint Leo U * Saint Louis U * Saint Louis U — Madrid Campus (Spain) * Saint Martin's U * Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College * Saint Mary's College of California * Saint Mary's College of Indiana * Saint Mary's U of Minnesota * Saint Michael's College * Saint Peter's U * Saint Vincent College * Saint Xavier U * Salem College * Salisbury U * Salve Regina U * Samford U * Santa Clara U * Sarah Lawrence College * Savannah College of Art and Design * School of the Art Institute of Chicago * Scripps College * Seattle Pacific U * Seattle U * Seton Hall U * Seton Hill U * Sewanee: The U of the South * Shaw U * Shawnee State U * Shenandoah U * Shepherd U * Shippensburg U of Pennsylvania * Siena College * Simmons College * Simmons U of Kentucky * Simmons U * Simpson College * Simpson U * SKEMA Business School — US Campus * Skidmore College * Smith College * Soka U of America * South Carolina State U * Southeast Missouri State U * Southern California Institute of Architecture * Southern Connecticut State U * Southern Illinois U Carbondale * Southern Illinois U Edwardsville * Southern Methodist U * Southern New Hampshire U * Southwestern U * Spalding U * Spartanburg Methodist College * Spelman College * Spring Arbor U * Spring Hill College * Springfield College * St Mary's U, Twickenham, London * St. Ambrose U * St. Andrews U (NC) * St. Bonaventure U * St. Catherine U * St. Edward's U * St. Francis College * St. John Fisher College * St. John's College (MD) * St. John's College (NM) * St. John's U (NY) * St. Joseph's College — Brooklyn Campus * St. Joseph's College — Long Island Campus * St. Lawrence U * St. Mary's College of Maryland * St. Norbert College * St. Olaf College * St. Thomas Aquinas College * St. Thomas U * St. Thomas U, Canada * Stanford U * Stephens College * Sterling College * Stetson U * Stephen F Austin State U * Stevens Institute of Technology * Stevenson U * Stockton U * Stonehill College * Suffolk U * SUNY Alfred State College * SUNY Binghamton U * SUNY Buffalo State College * SUNY Cobleskill * SUNY College at Brockport * SUNY College at Geneseo * SUNY College at Old Westbury * SUNY College at Oneonta * SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry * SUNY College of Technology at Canton * SUNY Cortland * SUNY Delhi * SUNY Farmingdale State College * SUNY Fredonia * SUNY Maritime College * SUNY Morrisville State College * SUNY New Paltz * SUNY Oswego * SUNY Plattsburgh * SUNY Polytechnic Institute * SUNY Potsdam * SUNY Stony Brook U * SUNY U at Albany * SUNY U at Buffalo * Susquehanna U * Swansea U * Swarthmore College * Sweet Briar College * Syracuse U * Tarleton State U * Taylor U * Temple U * Temple U, Japan Campus * Texas A&M U * Texas A & M U — Commerce * Texas Christian U * Texas Lutheran U * Texas Tech U * Texas Wesleyan U * The American U of Paris * The American U of Rome * The Catholic U of America * The College of Idaho * The College of New Jersey * The College of Saint Rose * The Culinary Institute of America (CA) * The Culinary Institute of America (NY) * The Culinary Institute of America (TX) * The Evergreen State College * The George Washington U * The Master's U * The New School * The Ohio State U * The U of Alabama * The U of Arizona * The U of Findlay * The U of Hong Kong * The U of Oklahoma * The U of Scranton * The U of South Alabama * The U of Tennessee Knoxville * The U of Texas at Austin * The U of Texas at Dallas * The U of Texas at San Antonio * The U of Toledo * The U of Tulsa * The U of Utah * The U of Virginia's College at Wise * The U of West Florida * Thiel College * Thomas College * Thomas Edison State U * Thomas Jefferson U — East Falls Campus * Thomas More U * Tiffin U * Transylvania U * Trevecca Nazarene U * Trine U * Trinity Christian College * Trinity College * Trinity U * Trinity Washington U * Truman State U * Tufts U * Tulane U * Tuskegee U * UCAM Universidad Católica de Murcia * Union College * United States Military Academy * United States Sports Academy * Unity College * Universidad Carlos III de Madrid * Universidad del Sagrado Corazon * U College Dublin * U of Aberdeen * U of Akron Main Campus * U of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) * U of Arkansas * U of Bradford * U of Bridgeport * U of Central Florida * U of Central Missouri * U of Charleston * U of Chicago * U of Cincinnati — Blue Ash College and Clermont College * U of Colorado Boulder * U of Colorado Colorado Springs * U of Colorado Denver * U of Connecticut * U of Dallas * U of Dayton * U of Delaware * U of Denver * U of Detroit Mercy * U of Dubuque * U of Dundee * U of East London * U of Evansville * U of Florida * U of Georgia * U of Glasgow * U of Guelph * U of Hartford * U of Health Sciences and Pharmacy * U of Houston * U of Idaho * U of Illinois at Chicago * U of Illinois Springfield * U of Illinois Urbana — Champaign * U of Indianapolis * U of Iowa * U of Kansas * U of Kentucky * U of La Verne * U of Limerick * U of Louisville * U of Louisiana * U of Lynchburg * U of Maine * U of Maine at Augusta * U of Maine at Farmington * U of Maine at Fort Kent * U of Maine at Machias * U of Maine at Presque Isle * U of Mary Washington * U of Maryland Eastern Shore * U of Maryland, Baltimore County * U of Massachusetts Amherst * U of Massachusetts Boston * U of Massachusetts Dartmouth * U of Massachusetts Lowell * U of Miami * U of Michigan * U of Michigan — Shanghai Jiao Tong U Joint Institute * U of Michigan — Dearborn * U of Michigan — Flint * U of Minnesota Crookston * U of Minnesota Duluth * U of Minnesota Morris * U of Minnesota Rochester * U of Minnesota Twin Cities * U of Missouri * U of Missouri-Kansas City * U of Missouri-St Louis * U of Montana * U of Mount Union * U of Nebraska — Lincoln * U of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) * U of New England * U of New Hampshire * U of New Haven * U of New Orleans * U of North Carolina Asheville * U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill * U of North Carolina at Charlotte * U of North Carolina Greensboro * U of North Carolina at Pembroke * U of North Carolina Wilmington * U of North Dakota * U of North Florida * U of North Georgia * U of North Texas * U of Northern Colorado * U of Northern Iowa * U of Northwestern — St. Paul * U of Notre Dame * U of Oregon * U of Pennsylvania * U of Pittsburgh * U of Plymouth * U of Portland * U of Puget Sound * U of Redlands * U of Rhode Island * U of Richmond * U of Rochester * U of Saint Joseph * U of Saint Katherine * U of San Diego * U of San Francisco * U of South Carolina — Columbia * U of South Dakota * U of South Florida * U of Southern California * U of Southern Maine * U of Southern Mississippi * U of St Andrews * U of St. Francis (IL) * U of St. Thomas (MN) * U of Stirling * U of Tampa * U of Texas Arlington * U of the Commonwealth Caribbean Global Campus * U of the Incarnate Word * U of the Pacific * U of the Sciences * U of the West * U of the West of England, Bristol * U of Vermont * U of Virginia * U of Washington — Bothell Campus * U of Washington — Tacoma Campus * U of West London * U of Wisconsin — Eau Claire * U of Wisconsin — Madison * U of Wisconsin — Milwaukee * U of Wisconsin — River Falls * U of Wisconsin — Stevens Point * U of Wisconsin — Stout * U of Wisconsin — Whitewater * U of Worcester (UK) * U of Wyoming * Upper Iowa U * Ursinus College * Ursuline College * Utica College * Valparaiso U * Vanderbilt U * Vassar College * Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology * Vermont Technical College * Villa Maria College * Villanova U * Vincennes U * Virginia Commonwealth U * Virginia Tech * Wabash College * Wagner College * Wake Forest U * Walsh U * Warner Pacific U * Warren Wilson College * Wartburg College * Washington & Jefferson College * Washington and Lee U * Washington College * Washington U in St. Louis * Wayne State U * Webb Institute * Webber International U * Webster U * Wellesley College * Wells College * Wentworth Institute of Technology * Wesleyan College * Wesleyan U * West Chester U of Pennsylvania * West Virginia U * West Virginia Wesleyan College * Western Colorado U * Western Connecticut State U * Western Illinois U * Western Michigan U * Western New England U * Western Washington U * Westfield State U * Westminster College (Missouri) * Westminster College (Pennsylvania) * Westminster College (Utah) * Westmont College * Wheaton College (IL) * Wheaton College, Massachusetts * Wheeling U * Whitman College * Whittier College * Whitworth U * Wichita State U * Widener U * Wilkes Honors College of FAU * Wilkes U * Willamette U * William & Mary * William Jewell College * William Paterson U of New Jersey * William Woods U * Williams College * Wilmington College * Wilson College * Wingate U * Winthrop U * Wisconsin Lutheran College * Wittenberg U * Wofford College * Woodbury U * Worcester Polytechnic Institute * Worcester State U * Wright State U * Xavier U * Xavier U of Louisiana * Yale U * York College of Pennsylvania * Zaytuna College & more





SUPPLEMENTAL PROMPTS

FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

BOSTON COLLEGE

Who has been your most meaningful conversation partner, and what profound questions have you considered together? (400 words)

BARNARD

Choose one woman — historical, fictional, contemporary, or personally significant — whose views differ from your own. Imagine a conversation with her. What would you discuss? How might her perspective challenge or shift your own? Share how this new mindset could influence your approach to learning and engagement both in and beyond the classroom at Barnard. (250 words)

(EXAMPLES OF, NOT AN
EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

CARNEGIE MELLON

As you think ahead to the process of learning during your college years, how will you define a successful college experience? (300 words)

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Describe a personal experience in which you persevered through adversity, rejected discrimination, learned a lesson, or were inspired by the courageous actions of others and how you will apply what you learned to our community in a positive way.. (250 words)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

In an ideal world where inter-species telepathic communication exists, which species would you choose to have a conversation with, and what would you want to learn from them? Would you ask beavers for architectural advice? Octopuses about cognition? Pigeons about navigation? Ants about governance? Make your case — both for the species and the question. (1-2 pages)

WHO ARE YOU?

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

What is your favorite snack?
What is your theme song?
What TV show will you binge watch next?
(100 characters each)

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The transition from middle to high school is a key time. Please share a book (novel, nonfiction, etc.) that had a serious impact on you during this time. We are not looking for a book report. (200-300 words)

ELON

Name three songs from your perfect playlist. (75-150 characters each)

WAKE FOREST

Give us your top 10 list.
Theme: (100 characters)

PROVIDENCE

What experiences or perspectives do you believe individuals from diverse backgrounds bring to a community or organization? (500 words)

GEORGE WASHINGTON U

If you had the power to change the course of history in your community or the world, what would you do and why? (500 words)

HARVARD

Describe a time when you strongly disagreed with someone about an idea or issue. How did you communicate or engage with this person? What did you learn from this experience? (100 words)

WILLIAM & MARY

If we visited your town, what would you want to show us? (300 words)

DARTMOUTH

Celebrate your nerdy side. (250 words)

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Tell us about a situation when you would or would not choose to use AI (when possible and permitted). What shapes your thinking? (250 words)

EMORY

Reflect on a personal experience where you intentionally expanded your cultural awareness. (150 words)

STANFORD

What is the most significant challenge that society faces today? (50 words)

VILLANOVA

Please detail a time when someone has borrowed some of your strength in their time of need. (250 words)

COLUMBIA

Tell us about an aspect of your life so far or your lived experience that is important to you, and describe how it has shaped the way you would learn from and contribute to Columbia's multidimensional and collaborative environment. (150 words)

LEHIGH

What is something great happening in your life right now? (200 words)

Supplemental Prompts Counter 2025-2026

THESE ARE POTENTIAL EXTRA MATERIALS (short answers, essays, major/program-specific essays, résumés, portfolios) STUDENTS MAY NEED TO WRITE OR PREPARE IN ADDITION TO OR INSTEAD OF THE COMMON APP ESSAY.

Alvernia University	2-3	R	P
American University	3-9		P
Amherst College	2-4		P
Auburn University	1	R	
Bard College	1	R	P
Barnard College	2-5	R	P
Bates College	1		P
Baylor University	1-4	R	
Belmont University	1-3		
Bentley University	2-3		
Berry College	1	R	P
Bethany College	1		P
Boston College	1	R	P
Boston University	3-1		
Bowdoin College	2-4		P
Brandeis University	2-3		P
Brown University	7-10	R	P
Bryant University		R	
Bryn Mawr College	2	R	P
Bucknell University	2	R	P
California Institute of Technology	10		P

Carleton College	2		P
Carnegie Mellon University	4		
Case Western Reserve University	1-3		P
Centre College	1	R	P
Chapman University	4	R	
Claremont McKenna College	2	R	P
Clark University	3	R	P
Clemson University	1-4	R	P
Coastal Carolina University	2-4		
Colgate University	3		P
College of Charleston	2-3		
College of Mount Saint Vincent	1		
College of Wooster	1		
College of William & Mary	1-3		P
Colorado College	1-2		P
Colorado State University	1-4		
Columbia University	5-6		
Cornell University	3-5	R	
Culver-Stockton College	1		
CUNY — Baruch College	1		
CUNY — Hunter College	1		
D'Youville College	1-2		
Dartmouth College	3	R	P
Davidson College	2	R	P
Dickinson College	1	R	P
Drew University	0-3	R	
Drexel University	1-3		
Duke University	2-4		P
Duquesne University	1	R	
Earlham College	1	R	P
East Carolina University	1		
Elon University	6	R	P
Emerson College	2-3		P
Emory University	2		
Fairfield University		R	
Flagler College	2	R	
Florida State University	1-3	R	
Fordham University	1		
Furman University		R	
George Mason University	3-4		
George Washington University	1-3		P
Georgetown University	3		
Georgia Institute of Technology	1		

Gonzaga University	1		
Goucher College	3		
Harvard College	5		P
Harvey Mudd College	2		P
Haverford College	2		P
High Point University	3	R	P
Hillsdale College	3	R	
Hofstra University	1		
Howard University	2	R	P
Illinois Institute of Technology	3		
Indiana University Bloomington	1		
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	2-5		
Iona University	1	R	
Ithaca College	1		
Johns Hopkins University	1-2	R	
Juniata College	2		P
Kalamazoo College	1		
Lafayette College	1		
La Salle University	1	R	
Lawrence University	2	R	P
Lehigh University	3-7		
Lewis and Clark College	1		
Lipscomb University	3	R	P
Loyola Marymount University	2		P
Lynn University	2	R	P
Macalester College	4	R	P
Malone University	1		
Manchester University	4		
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	6-8		
Marist College	2-4	R	P
Miami University (Ohio)		R	
Monmouth University	1-3	R	P
Montclair State University	1-2	R	P
Moravian College	3		P
Mount Holyoke College	1	R	P
New Jersey Institute of Technology	1-2	R	P
New York University	1-2		
North Carolina State University	2-3		
Northeastern University		R	
Northwestern University	3	R	
Nova Southeastern University		R	
Occidental College	3	R	P
Old Dominion University		R	

Pace University		R	
Penn State University	1-12		
Pepperdine University	1	P	
Pitzer College	2	P	
Pomona College	3	P	
Princeton University	5-7	P	
Providence College	1	P	
Purdue University	4-6		
Quinnipiac University	1	R	
Ramapo College of New Jersey	1-3		
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	3-8	R	
Rice University	3-5		
Rider University		R	
Rochester Institute of Technology		R	P
Roger Williams University	1-3	R	
Rutgers University	1		
Santa Clara University	3	R	
Sarah Lawrence College	1	P	
Scripps College	2	P	
Seattle Pacific University	1		
Southern Methodist University	2	R	
St. John's University (NY)	1-2		
Stanford University	8	P	
Stevens Institute of Technology	1-2	R	
Stonehill College	1		
SUNY Buffalo	1		
SUNY Stony Brook University		R	
Swarthmore College	2	P	
Syracuse University	1		
Texas A&M University	4-5		
Texas Christian University	5-6	R	P
The College of Idaho	1		
The College of New Jersey	1	P	
The New School	2-3	P	
The Ohio State University	1		
Towson University	1-2		
Trinity College (CT)	5-6	R	P
Tufts University	2-4		
Tulane University	1	R	
United States Air Force Academy	2		
United States Coast Guard Academy	2		
United States Merchant Marine Academy	2		
United States Military Academy	2		

United States Naval Academy	2		
University of Alabama	7		
University of Arizona	1	R	
University of California (9 campuses)	4		
University of Chicago	2		
University of Cincinnati	1		
University of Colorado Boulder	1		
University of Connecticut	1-4	R	P
University of Delaware	1		
University of Florida	2-5		
University of Georgia	1	R	P
University of Illinois — Chicago	1-4		
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	2-5		
University of Mary Washington	2-3		
University of Maryland	6	R	
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	1-5		
University of Massachusetts — Amherst	3	R	
University of Miami	1		
University of Michigan	2		
University of Minnesota	2-5		
University of New Hampshire		R	
University of North Carolina at Asheville	1		
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	3-6	R	
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	1-2		
University of North Carolina Greensboro	1		
University of North Carolina at Wilmington	1-2		
University of Notre Dame	5		P
University of Oklahoma	3-7		
University of Oregon	2-5		
University of Pennsylvania	2-7	R	
University of Pittsburgh	2-3		
University of Rhode Island	1		
University of Richmond	1		
University of Rochester	3		
University of San Diego	2		
University of San Francisco	1-8	R	P
University of Southern California	4-7	R	P
University of Tennessee	5-7	R	P
University of Texas at Austin	5-9		
University of Texas Dallas		R	
University of Utah	0-2		
University of Vermont	1		
University of Virginia	2		

University of Washington	3-4		
University of Wisconsin — Madison	3		
Ursinus College	1		
Vanderbilt University	1	R	
Vassar College	3		P
Villanova University	2		
Virginia Tech	4		
Wake Forest University	6		
Washington and Lee University	2	R	
Washington University in St. Louis	4-5		P
Wellesley College	1		P
Wesleyan University	1		P
West Chester University	1-3	R	
Wheaton College (MA)	1		P
Wheaton College (IL)	1		
William and Mary	2-3		P
Williams College	1		P
Wofford College	1	R	P
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	1	R	P
Yale University	8	R	P
Yeshiva University	16		

This is not an exhaustive list.
Tallies based on 2025 cycle.
Subject to change in 2026.

R = Résumé

P = Portfolio





CHALLENGES OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

Prompt for the Common App

250 WORDS

Sometimes a student's application and achievements may be impacted by challenges or other circumstances. This could involve:

- **Access to a safe and quiet study space**
- **Access to reliable technology and internet**
- **Community disruption (protests, teacher strikes, etc.)**
- **Discrimination**
- **Family disruptions (divorce, job loss, health, addiction, etc.)**
- **Family or other obligations (care-taking, financial support, etc.)**
- **Housing instability, displacement, or homelessness**
- **Military deployment or activation**
- **Natural disasters**
- **Physical health and mental well-being**
- **War, conflict, or other hardships**

Describe how these events have impacted you.





ADDITIONAL INFO
300 words

**DETAILS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES
OR QUALIFICATIONS NOT
REFLECTED IN YOUR APPLICATION.**

STAY POSITIVE!

SELF

SCHOOL

HOME

COMMUNITY

ENRICHMENT



OTHER:

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]



OTHER:

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Erdbeeren und Waldfrüchte. Don't mess it up.

It was a sweltering summer day, the sun bearing down on the asphalt streets packed with people. Erdbeeren und Waldfrüchte, I nervously rehearsed before approaching the counter. "Guten Morgen," I announced to the cashier, "Darf ich bitte ein Eis mit Erdbeeren und Waldfrüchte?"

"Drei Euro, bitte."

I fished through my wallet, looking for the silver-and-gold two-Euro coins, and paid for my ice cream cone of strawberry and wild berry (Erdbeeren und Waldfrüchte), then headed back toward the street, where my host family was waiting.

"Everything went well?" Veronika, my host mother, asked, looking to her husband, Michi, wrangling their five-year-old son, Lorenz.

"Yeah, it's good!"

"Kein mehr Englisch!" cried Lorenz, red in the face and nearly crying.

A 17-year-old boy with Chinese features, I must've stood out like a sore thumb from my all-German host family and the all-German crowd in Marienplatz.

Days earlier, my leg jittered rhythmically in Newark International Airport as I fished around my backpack, checking for the hundredth time that everything was there. I was about to fly to Germany, an experience I had dreamt of for months, and my mind was racing. I was the incoming president of German Honor Society, the kid in German class everyone asked when they forgot a grammatical convention. I was prepared.

So why did my heart jump when Lorenz said, "No more English?"

His words stuck with me for the rest of the day as I ran through every German lesson I could remember. Ever since sixth-grade, my German teachers taught with music, fun lessons on the quirks of German culture and stories from their experiences there. For six years, I'd been graded on everything I wrote and said. And I loved it. I dove into German history and culture and kept up with German news. I rallied students at the school activity fair to the German booth, growing the club to the largest it had ever been. But walking through the streets of Munich, I felt a weight on my shoulders. I didn't want to mess up.

The next morning, at the start of my internship in BMW's tax department, Mona, my boss for the next three weeks, greeted me in German and introduced me to the four tax advisors I'd work with, who also greeted me in German.

Can I do this? I took a deep breath and spoke. "Ich heiße Kenneth, ich bin der neue Schülerpraktikant." Their nods of understanding made me feel relieved.

I can do this: No more English.

After days of speaking nothing but German at home and at the office, I came home one afternoon to Lorenz playing in the living room. He ran over to proudly show me his Pokémon cards. After days of speaking German, Lorenz seemed comfortable with me.

Over dinner, Veronika and I discussed politics, trading news articles and cracking jokes. I almost forgot I was speaking a foreign language.

After three weeks supporting my colleagues at the office, exploring the city's labyrinth of sidewalks and hiking to breathtaking views of the Bavarian Alps with my host family, I didn't feel like I stood out anymore; I felt like I belonged.

As I got off the plane back in New Jersey, I was filled with ideas for the upcoming year of German Club: pretzel baking, traditional dances, art and architecture. My travels have taught me just how beneficial it is to be immersed in a foreign language and culture.

Working with a multinational company also showed me the sheer scale of our world's interconnectedness. A decision in Munich doesn't just affect Germany, but a web of global supply chains, connecting offices, factories and transportation hubs. I plan to study abroad during college to expand these perspectives, understanding the systems that have been built to handle our new era of globalization.

STUDENT EXAMPLE ESSAY

BY KENNETH CHAN

**Attending: Princeton
Accepted: Cornell,
Johns Hopkins,
Carnegie Mellon,
University of Virginia,
Georgia Tech, Case
Western Reserve, UNC
Chapel Hill, Boston
College, Purdue Honors,
Rutgers Honors**

**Common App prompt:
*Discuss an
accomplishment,
event, or realization
that sparked a period
of personal growth
and a new
understanding of
yourself or others.***



sample supplement

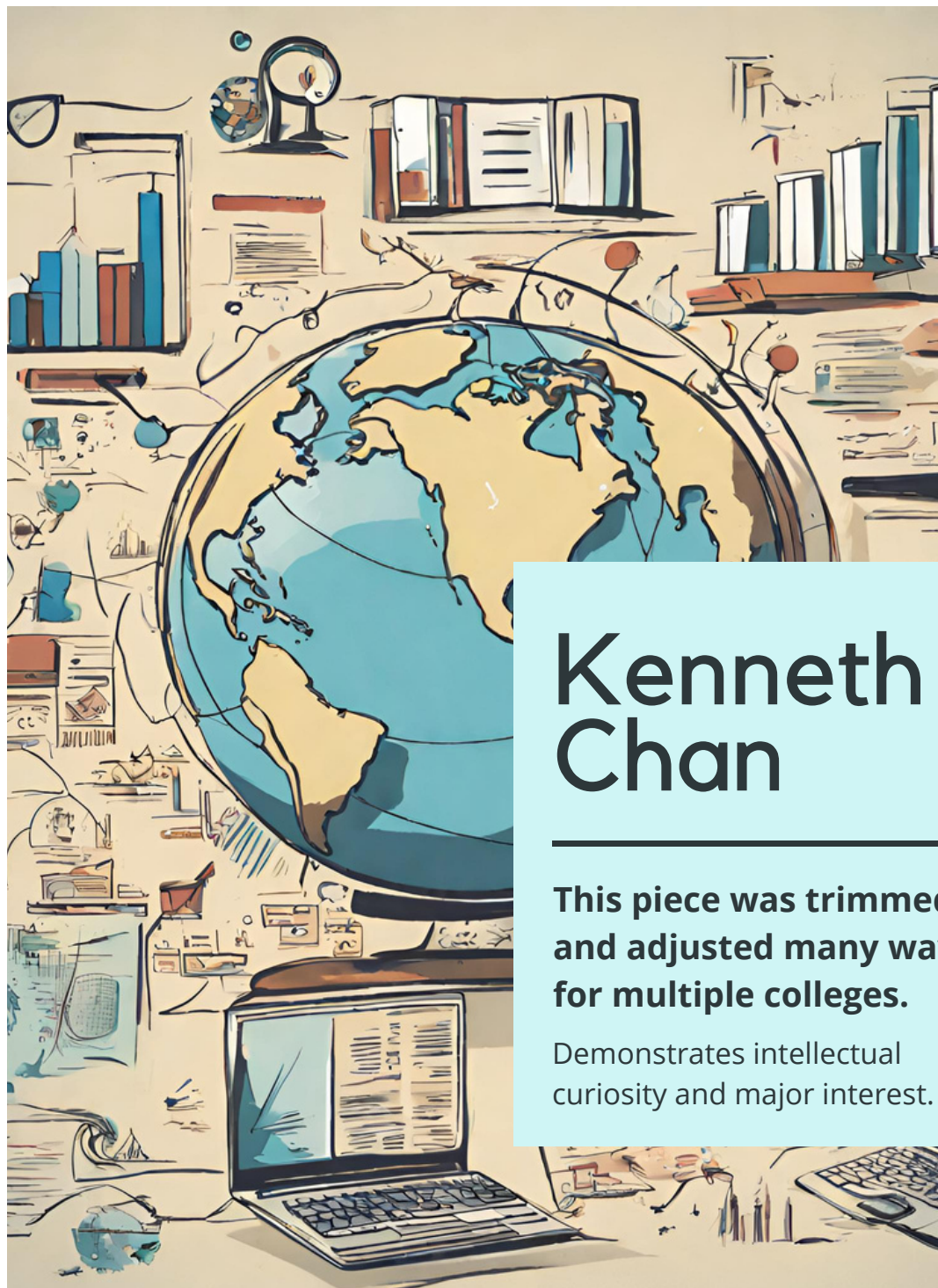
As the pandemic started, I filled my free time diving into American and British history's exciting battles, grandiose speeches and stunning turning points that captivated my imagination. But as I examined each conflict, action and decision, what amazed me was how almost every twist could be whittled down to economic causes. It began an obsession that led me to videos, articles and books. When I found an online course for AP Microeconomics, I was enticed. Just one problem: Algebra II was a prerequisite.

Yielding to my groveling, my mom bought me three months of tuition to an online platform and I was off. I breezed through the first unit without difficulty. Then the second. Then the third.

Every morning of quarantine, I'd crack open my computer and keep going. Synthetic division, exponentials, logarithms — I didn't even stop when I got to calculus. I filled three notebooks with notes and problem sets. By the end of those three months, I'd finished everything through Calculus II.

Armed with my new math toolset, the AP Economics course was filled with connections: profit maximization, utility optimization, the Lorenz curve were all connected to calculus. It helped me develop a system of examining history. Economics is history uncloaked, helping answer not only "How did we get here?" but "Where are we going?"

Economics is a powerful tool to explain decision-making, public policy and inequality. But theory has no value without connection to real-world data. I want to use mathematics to apply data-driven solutions to complex problems. I'm drawn to computational finance, a field marrying economic theories to the mathematics that drive them. By framing each decision as an optimizable task — as economics presupposes — and using mathematics to find those optima, I will help develop more efficient global systems to forge a fairer future.



Kenneth Chan

This piece was trimmed and adjusted many ways for multiple colleges.

Demonstrates intellectual curiosity and major interest.

DO

- DO** / Be yourself.
- DO** / Highlight your strengths.
- DO** / Stay positive.
- DO** / Show a little creativity.
- DO** / Be honest.
- DO** / Care about your topic.
- DO** / Have a consistent and solid message.
- DO** / Be specific.
- DO** / Say something that is unexpected.
- DO** / Make it believable.
- DO** / Describe things.
- DO** / Think before writing.
- DO** / Edit carefully.
- DO** / Be confident.

DOs

Before we really get to writing, here is a list of things to make sure you do and things to make sure you don't do.



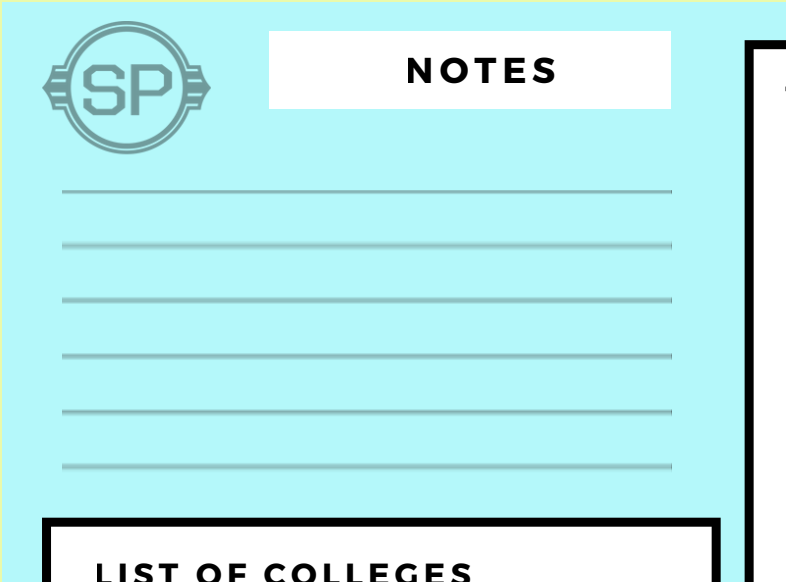
Keep these in mind as you write and edit all of your essays.

DON'Ts

DON'T

- DON'T** / Explain away bad grades or test scores.
- DON'T** / Lie.
- DON'T** / Show off.
- DON'T** / Be general.
- DON'T** / Be boring.
- DON'T** / Plagiarize anyone else's essay. (or AI!)
- DON'T** / Forget to answer the question.
- DON'T** / Try to describe everything about yourself.
- DON'T** / Use a famous quotation that isn't part of a prompt.
- DON'T** / Write what you think the admissions committee wants to hear.





NOTES

[illegible][illegible]

TO PLAN

TO BUY

TO REMEMBER
