

Pre-Brainstorm Tasks

University of California

UC Personal Insight Questions

Choose four of the following prompts, and respond to each in an essay no longer than 350 words. A total of four essays is required.

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.
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.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
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?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

Before you start writing your responses to the UC PIQs, complete the three tasks below.

Task 1

Look at the essays you have already written, including the Common Application personal statement and supplements. For each, make notes in the table below.

Essay	Brief description of essay	What characteristic(s) does this essay convey?	Which UC PIQ (s) might fit?	How would I modify the original to fit the UC PIQ?
<i>Example: Common App</i>	<i>Helping Jane with her trash</i>	<i>I care about my community</i>	<i>7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Common App version as a base. • Edit to fit UC word limit. • Focus on how this makes my community a better place.



Task 2

List any additional characteristics you want to illustrate. For each, note at least one RECENT example that demonstrates that characteristic, and indicate which prompt (or prompts) that example could address.

Sample:

Characteristic: I am a problem-solver

Example: When I attended the robotics competition, one of our best teammates got sick. I stepped in and took care of the tasks he is usually responsible for.

UC prompt 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.

Task 3

Based on your notes from tasks 1 and 2, which four PIQs do you think you will answer? What stories could you share for each?

PIQ	Story Idea	What will readers learn about me (characteristics)?



Yale University

Essay 1 (100 words or fewer)

Students at Yale have plenty of time to explore their academic interests before committing to one or more major fields of study. Many students either modify their original academic direction or change their minds entirely. As of this moment, what academic areas seem to fit your interests or goals most comfortably? Please indicate up to three from the list provided. Why do these areas appeal to you?

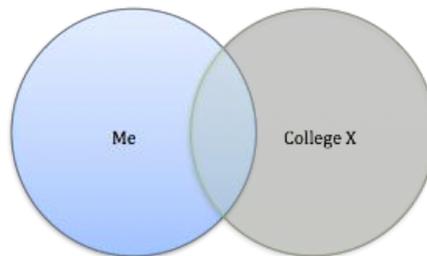
Prework:

Complete this chart for as many academic interests as you would like to include.

Academic area (from Yale's list) that fits my interests or goals	Why does this area appeal to me? What interest or goal does it address?

New York University

We would like to know more about your interest in NYU. We are particularly interested in knowing what motivated you to apply to NYU and more specifically, why you have applied or expressed interest in a particular campus, school, college, program, and/or area of study? If you have applied to more than one, please tell us why you are interested in each of the campuses, schools, colleges, or programs to which you have applied. You may be focused or undecided, or simply open to the options within NYU's global network; regardless, we want to understand – Why NYU? (max 400 words)



Prework: Answer these questions:

Why are you excited to live New York city?

Why are you interested the college/program you've applied to?

What have you done or experienced in your life that matches what you will do/experience at NYU? Consider learning opportunities, cultural experiences, etc.

What does NYU offer that you've never done/experienced? Consider learning opportunities, cultural experiences, etc.

What else appeals to you about NYU?

Stanford University

1. Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (50-150 words)
 - List three possibilities. For each, note the following:
 - What do you like about this activity?
 - What do you do for this activity?
 - What have you learned about yourself through this activity?
 - What can we learn about you from your involvement in this activity?
2. The Stanford community is deeply curious and driven to learn in and out of the classroom. Reflect on an idea or experience that makes you genuinely excited about learning. (100-250 words)
 - What are some ideas or topics that interest you?
 - Why do you care about these ideas/topics?
 - What experiences have you had that make you excited to learn - either about the topic related to that experience or about other topics? This could be a powerful lecture, a time you explored a topic on your own, something you read, a person you met ... anything at all.
3. Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate—and us—know you better. (100-250 words)
 - This can be a fun piece. What would you like a potential roommate to know about you?
 - What would you like Stanford (and your roommate) to know about you that might surprise them?
 - What is wonderful about you?
 - What is surprising about you?
 - What does your bedroom look like? What does that room tell us about you?
 - What would you like to know about your roommate?
4. Tell us about something that is meaningful to you, and why. (100-250 words)
 - What are some meaningful things in your life? This could be people, places, ideas... Give this some thought.
 - For each possibility, write about your experience with that person, place, idea, etc. Why do you care about it?
5. Short answers (up to 50 words each) For each of these, make some notes. You don't have to have the perfect answer yet. Don't think too hard about these. They don't expect cleverness - they're looking for truth!
 1. What is the most significant challenge that society faces today?
 2. How did you spend your last two summers?

3. What historical moment or event do you wish you could have witnessed?
4. What five words best describe you?
5. When the choice is yours, what do you read, listen to, or watch?
6. Name one thing you are looking forward to experiencing at Stanford.