

Why School X Is My Top Choice School

Finishing your writing during summer is always the #1 recommendation from last year's Seniors

1. Your resume
2. Your main essay
 - About 500-650 words
 - Written in 1st person with clear, personal voice
 - One clear story with one clear thesis
 - No: sports, death, depression, divorce, Mexico missions, or your hero
 - Possible topics: your favorite hobby, a funny/embarassing experience you had, a time you really grew/learned, a favorite memory, your passion
 - No philosophies - don't talk about what you think, feel, believe
 - Be funny!!
3. Small Common App essay
 - 1000 characters (WITH spaces) on your most meaningful extra-curricular activity
 - Begin this with a small/narrative story/memory/defining moment (a hook)
 - What does it mean to you? What does it make you think about?
 - How have you changed? How has it affected your future?
 - Do not describe/define the activity. We all know what football/ASB/etc is...
4. ~150 words on your most meaningful academic experience and how it helped you choose your major
 - Begin this with a small/narrative story/memory/defining moment (a hook)
5. "Why do you want to come to this college?"
 - This can be a full page long
 - Research your top schools and come up with at least 5 specific, academic reasons each
 - Write why you are convinced it's the perfect academic place for you; you "need" to go
 - Discuss your interview, campus visit, profs/students you talked with, meeting admissions

- Discuss NAMES of majors, specific classes, programs the offer, profs there, etc etc
 - You need to demonstrate that you understand/want the academic environment
6. For the UW
- Write 4 more paragraphs on your 5 most meaningful extra curriculars
 - One decent sized paragraph per activity (under 200 words each)
 - Your 150 words for #3 will count as one of these, so just write 4 more
 - 250-500 words on how you will bring diversity or a time that you saw two cultures in conflict, pos. or neg.
 - Focus on your unique experiences and viewpoints
 - This is not just a question about race or religion, culture can be defined broadly
7. For a Jesuit school or a Christian school: (LMU, Seattle U, Pepperdine, Azusa Pacific, etc)
- Write about why the mission of that school is a good match for you
8. For WSU and Oregon State
- 100 words each on one example per question; go as in depth as you can for each
 - leadership/group contributions
 - knowledge or creativity in a special interest field
 - adversity - discuss the most significant challenge you have faced
 - community service
 - experiencing or witnessing discrimination
 - goals/commitment
9. UC Prompts:
- Respond to both prompts, using a maximum of 1,000 words total.
 - You may allocate the word count as you wish. If you choose to respond to one prompt at greater length, we suggest your shorter answer be no less than 250 words.
 - Stay within the word limit as closely as you can. A little over (1,012 words, for example) is fine.
 - PROMPT #1

- Describe the world you come from (for example: your family, community or school) and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.
 - PROMPT #2
 - All applicants: Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are? Additional Comments. Use this space (up to 500 words) to tell us anything you want us to know about you or your academic record that you have not had the opportunity to describe elsewhere in the application.
10. Start the [Common App](#) as soon as it goes online (August 1st) and finalize it by Aug. 30th.
- Create a very unprivate user name and password (like your dog's name) and WRITE THEM DOWN.
 - Try to make your user name and password the same for all of the colleges (applications).