

WRITING YOUR ESSAY

uni essay • personal profile • personal insight



- Personal statement up to 4000 characters, about 550 to 1000 words
- Common App up to 650 words (main personal essay)
- Supplemental essays vary from 100 to 300 words
- University of California (PIQ) around 350 words each
- Don't be surprised if you end up writing around 15 essays in various lengths

Essays should be about YOU!!!



WHAT DO ADMISSIONS OFFICERS LOOK FOR?

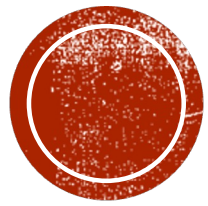
Answers to:

- Who is this person?
 - Will this person contribute something of value to our campus?
 - Does this person have a mission in life? A philosophy? Might this mission/philosophy match ours?
 - Can this person write?
-
- Each university has its own criteria and different readers respond differently. Some may assess your writing ability. Some may look for your story. Either way, both are important.



- If they ask for an essay, they will read it.
- An essay could make or break your chances, so take it seriously.
- A bad essay could negatively affect your application.





GENERATING CONTENT FOR YOUR ESSAY



ESSENCE OBJECTS EXERCISE

- You are not necessarily writing about your objects, but you are writing about YOU.
- Emotions, memories, and complex meanings - an object that's more than an object
 - Imagine a box.
 - In this box is a set of objects.
 - Imagine that each one is one of your essence objects.
 - Each object represents one of your fundamental qualities.
 - Thus, each object is more than just an object.



QUESTIONS TO HELP WITH THE OBJECTS EXERCISE

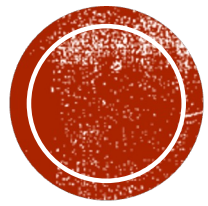
- *What's something you never leave home without?*
- *What's a snack you crave?*
- *A food that reminds you of your family?*
- *A food that reminds you of home?*
- *A tradition that reminds you of home?*
- *What else reminds you of home?*
- *An object that represents your best friend?*
- *An object that represents your father? Your mother? Your grandparents?*
- *Something you loved and lost?*
- *A toy you used to play with as a kid?*
- *Something that makes you laugh?*
- *A book you love?*
- *Best movie ever?*
- *Favourite guilty pleasure movie?*
- *An object that represents something abstract that you broke (a heart, a promise)?*
- *An object that represents a regret?*
- *A favourite gift you received? A favourite gift you gave?*
- *An object that represents a secret?*
- *Something about you no one else knows?*
- *A dream?*
- *Something you stole?*
- *Something you found?*
- *Something that makes you feel safe?*
- *The worst thing that ever happened to you?*
- *The best thing?*
- *The logo on your imaginary business card?*
- *The image you'd like carved into your tombstone?*
- *An object that represents: a smell you love, a smell you hate, a taste you love, a taste you hate, the sweetest sound in the world?*
- *The coolest thing about science?*
- *Something you forgot?*



- *Something old? Something new?
Something borrowed? Something
blue?*
- *An accident?*
- *Best thing you ever found in the street?*
- *Best money you ever spent?*
- *Your life lie? Your favourite object?*
- *Something from another country?*
- *Your favourite sentence?*
- *You'd cry if you lost this?*
- *An object that represents someone
you'd like to know more about?*
- *Something you'll never get rid of?*
- *A bad habit?*
- *A perfect moment?*
- *A time you laughed so hard you cried?*
- *A time you cried so hard you laughed?*
- *An image you'll never forget?*

- *What they'd put in the museum of your life?*
- *A tattoo?*
- *The cover image on your first self-titled
album?*
- *A near-death experience?*
- *A moment when you were so embarrassed
you wanted to disappear?*
- *Recurring dream?*
- *Worst (actual) nightmare?*
- *When were you most afraid?*
- *If you had a clone, what would you have the
clone do?*
- *First love?*
- *A time you were speechless?*
- *The moment you left childhood behind?*
- *A quotation you love?*
- *Your favourite photo?*





**SHARE 2 OBJECTS WITH
YOUR NEIGHBOUR**



THE VALUES EXERCISE

- Select your top 10 values
- Pick your top 5 values
- Choose your top 3
- Pick your number 1 value



2 APPROACHES TO STRUCTURE

- Narrative Structure
- Montage Structure

