

Common Scholarship and College Admissions Essay Prompts

1. What is special, unique, distinctive, and/or impressive about your life story?
2. What details of your life (personal or family problems, history, people or events that have shaped you or influenced your goals)?
3. What do you want to study and why? When did you become interested in this field and what you learned about it that has further stimulated your interest and reinforced your conviction that you are well suited for this field?
4. If you worked a lot during your high school years, what have you learned (leadership or managerial skills, for example) and how has that work contributed to your growth?
5. What are your career goals?
6. Are there any gaps or discrepancies in your academic record that you should explain (rising GPA, a bad year, etc)?
7. Have you overcome any unusual obstacles or hardships (for example, economic, familial, or physical) in your life?
8. If you did a lot of community service during you high school years, what have you learned and how has the service contributed to your growth?
9. Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability both in and out of school.
10. Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart.
11. Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they relate to your field of study and your future goals.
12. How has your family background affected the way you see the world?
13. How has your education contributed to who you are today?
14. Why do you want to get a college education?
15. From a financial standpoint, what impact would this scholarship have on your education?
16. State any special personal or family circumstances affecting your need for financial assistance.

