

## Sample College Essay Prompts

**Directions:** If you're not using a real college essay prompt, please use one of the following.

1. What have you undertaken or done on your own in the last year or two that has nothing to do with academic work? (Northwestern)
2. What is the best advice you ever received? Why? And did you follow it? (University of Pennsylvania)
3. Select a creative work -- a novel, a film, a poem, a musical piece, a painting or other work of art -- that has influenced the way you view the world and the way you view yourself. Discuss the work and its effect on you. (New York University)
4. If you were to look back on your high school years, what advice would you give to someone beginning their high school career? (Simmons)
5. Tell us about the neighborhood that you grew up in and how it helped shape you into the kind of person you are today. (Yale and the University of Chicago)
6. If you could be a "fly on the wall" to observe any situation -- historical, personal, or otherwise -- describe what you would choose to observe and why. What would you hope to learn and how would it benefit you? (University of Pittsburgh)
7. Describe a risk that you have taken and discuss its impact on your life. (Kalamazoo College)
8. If you had the power to change three things in your community or in the world, what would you change and why? (Middle East Technical University in Turkey)
9. If you were to write a book, on what theme or subject matter would it be based, and why? (Stanford)