

The Familiar to the Offbeat

College Essay Application Prompts

(Retrieved from the Anchorage Daily News, December 28, 2006)

1. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
2. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance on you.
3. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you and describe that influence.
4. Leap forward or backward 100 years and tell us about your day. (Texas Christian University)
5. Pick an important social, political, or economic problem in today's world. Write a solution for it. (Texas Christian University)
6. If there were no such thing as money, how would your life be different? (St. Edward's University)
7. After getting separated from a high school field trip to the symphony, you and two of your friends find yourselves trapped in a wolf pit facing menacing wolves. The only items you have are your US history book, your iPod, a protractor, Scotch tape, and a note from your mother stating that you need to leave school early because of a dentist appointment. How will you use your talents and the items you have to lead your friends to safety? (St. Edward's University)
8. If you could balance on a tightrope, over what landscape would you walk? (University of Chicago)
9. An astronaut stranded in space, a futuristic machine that sort of faxes humans from space to earth, and a debate over whether identity is physical or spiritual... (University of Chicago)
10. Have you ever walked through the aisles of a warehouse store like Costco or Sam's Club and wondered who would buy a jar of mustard a foot and a half tall? We've bought it, but it didn't stop us from wondering about other things, like absurd eating contests, impulse buys, excess, unimagined uses for mustard, storage, preservatives, notions of bigness, and dozens of other ideas silly and serious. Write an essay somehow inspired by super-huge mustard. (University of Chicago)