

4 UNUSUAL ESSAY QUESTIONS AND HOW TO APPROACH THEM

Aside from the open-ended personal essay on the common application, some colleges require that you answer a question that is more specific, more thought-provoking, or more, in a word, unusual. Many schools take pride in the originality of their questions, but though they are challenging, they are not meant to be impossible. We've found four of the most stimulating questions that colleges have posed in the past and provided you with some tips or examples of how to start your brainstorming process before answering them. Take a look. **You've just reached your one millionth hit on your YouTube video. What is the video about? - Lehigh University**

With questions like these, you will not be judged by the specific "type" of video that you describe. Instead, admissions officers want to see your personality shining through in your answer, and that you have a vision of where you'll be in the future. If you were to become famous one day, in what field would you like to be prominent? Where do you plan on exerting the most energy in college and beyond? Your response can be niche, humorous, and unrealistic. Just make sure that it represents *you*.

Give us your top ten list. - Wake Forest

Your answer can go in a number of directions. Perhaps you're a film enthusiast, and you want to list your top 10 favorite movies and why you like them. Maybe you love to write, and you have 10 words that excite or inspire you. If you love comedy, perhaps you have 10 moments or jokes throughout history that have made you laugh the hardest. This list can be seemingly random, as long as you find a way to tie the items together with a category that pertains to you and your interests in a significant way.

To tweet or not to tweet? - University of Virginia

Many schools choose questions that are very open ended, hoping that you will run with the opportunity to show some creativity and insight with your essay. You could write about the effects of social media, the meaning of the second amendment, the relative importance of personal expression, or the types of tweets you would send out if you were given the choice. You don't have to give a "correct answer," but rather, exhibit that you've reflected on the topic and can develop an opinion that takes both sides of any debate into account.

What is something about which you have changed your mind in the last three years? - Yale University

Here, you have the platform to talk about your personal growth and development throughout high school. Like the other questions, you can choose to write about a minor change in taste, or something more philosophical, so long as it indicates who you are as a person and what you value in life. You could also demonstrate your flexibility, your willingness to learn from your mistakes, and your ability to take criticism or advice from your mentors, professors, and from those who are different from you.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/11/25/unusual-college-essay-questions-for-2013-14-2/?utm_term=.f1c4b3b7bd7a