

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY WRITING SUPPLEMENT

-List a few words or phrases that describe your ideal college community.(150 words or less)

Inspiring Teachers (who have contagious passion for their subject matter)

Fun (think 22 Jump Street, but without the drugs and the murder and honestly, don't think about 22 Jump Street).

Beautiful (I want to attend a school with a charming campus. One covered with trimmed hedges and grand buildings. The sort of campus that is so serene it makes me forget how polar bears are dying at alarming rates due to global warming).

Critical Thinkers (I'm excited to be challenged intellectually, meeting people with different perspectives and collaborating).

Mac & Cheese (I'm gluten free, so I'm not talking about the food. What I'm talking about is perfect chemistry. I want to be at a school I mesh seamlessly with, like ham and eggs or peanut butter and jelly or gin and tonic... umm, so I've heard...Columbia and Weston!)

Ineffable(...).

-List the titles of the required readings from courses during the school year or summer that you enjoyed most in the past year. (150 words or less)

The Prince: Machiavelli wrote this all-time favorite of mine. Basically a tell-all tale on world domination. I'm glad they don't read it at Fox News...

The Alchemist: A very spiritual journey. If you read this book, God will pick you for heaven and invite you to all the VIP dinners. If you're lucky, he'll even let you braid his beard. Or her beard... who's to say?

A Tale Of Two Cities: Just beautifully written. Every sentence is a veritable masterpiece. The way Dickens interweaves politics and the general zeitgeist of the French Revolution into such a personal story is honestly awe-inspiring.

All Quiet on The Western Front: Made me look at Call of Duty a little differently.

Lord of The Flies: Basically what happens when you leave me alone with a box of gluten-free pizza: absolute savagery.

-List the titles of the books you read for pleasure that you enjoyed most in the past year. (150 words or less)

How To Write A Sitcom: All jokes aside, I spent my gap years—not only playing ice hockey— but writing pilot scripts. I'm a very impressive individual.

The Zen of Farting: Ok... Maybe not that impressive.

Ready Player One: A book about a virtual reality scavenger hunt sponsored by a futuristic billionaire obsessed with 80's pop culture references. If you were able to follow that, it's probably a book you'd really enjoy.

Catch-22: As an aspiring comedy writer, this was recommended to me as "hilarious" by my grandfather. I certainly concur. Other personal favorites of the "hilarious" persuasion include John Dies At The End, A Confederacy Of Dunces, The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy and I Am America (And So Can You!)

Relentless: A book I read during my hockey season about developing a mental edge. It was written by Kobe Bryant's personal trainer, dissecting the importance of psychological toughness.

-List the titles of the print, electronic publications and websites you read regularly. (150 words or less)

The New York Times: While ignorance is sometimes bliss when it comes to the news these days, it's important for me to stay-up-to-date. Otherwise I won't understand any of the jokes delivered during Weekend Update on SNL.

The Onion: A little unsettling that New York Times' articles are often indistinguishable from The Onion, but I turn to both for a good laugh.

Men's Health: So many interesting articles about the intricacies of fitness. With every page, I learn something new to better myself.

Infowars: I struggle with anxiety, but watching Alex Jones rant really soothes me. Always nice to know someone has it worse than me.

The New Yorker: It's the perfect blend of humor, news and commentary. If I could write for any magazine, it would definitely be The New Yorker.

-List the titles of the films, concerts, shows, exhibits, lectures and other entertainments you enjoyed most in the past year. (150 words or less)

ASSSSCAT: It looks like an aggressive typo, but it's actually my favorite improv troupe. They play every Saturday night at the Upright Citizen's Brigade theater in West Hollywood.

Baby Driver: Unfortunately, very few infants actually drive in this movie. I recommend it nonetheless.

G-Eazy Concert: Finally a rapper who doesn't write songs about stealing my girlfriend. Just kidding! Brittany is on tour with him right now.

The Mullen Bugatti Supercar Exhibit: I can't afford a Bugatti, but a boy can dream...

Hulu: Better than Netflix.

Netflix: What? I'm still a millennial. Favorite recent shows include: How I Met Your Mother, Always Sunny In Philadelphia, New Girl, and Big Mouth.

Kinky Boots: The Broadway-esque spectacle was mind-blowing, the set was gorgeous and the acting was awe-inspiring. I just wish it was named something a little less provocative. Making purchases on kinkyboots.com got me grounded for a month.

-Please tell us what you value most about Columbia and why. (300 words or less)

This is a hard question to answer truthfully, because I've never had the pleasure of visiting Columbia myself. I don't know how squishy the grass is or how tall the trees are; I don't know how the campus smells or how devilishly handsome I would look sporting a Columbia jacket down Amsterdam Avenue (although, I'm going to guess VERY devilishly handsome).

And while this might be the case, it doesn't preclude me from taking a leap of faith and stating: I'd love to attend Columbia. Sure, I could cite evidence I found on the internet to make that statement valid, but I think as an admissions committee, you'd much rather me go with my gut.

So, Columbia Admission's Committee, let me indulge you.

I value Moe Berg (What!? He can do that? He can just pick an alumnus?— Yes. Yes I can). Granted he graduated from Princeton, but he went to Columbia Law School. That means he finished Princeton and went "eh, I could do better."

Moe's story has resonated with me for years because his interests were so multi-faceted: he was a catcher for the White Sox, a frequent contestant on radio trivia shows, a man of seven languages and a spy for the US Government during WW2. His ability to find success in so many different areas of study was remarkable and truly embodies the principles Columbia stands for. Columbia's Core Curriculum illustrates the University's desire to round out students. No Columbia graduate is unidimensional.

I love comedy, but there are other things I'm passionate about too. I play hockey, I paint and draw, I love film, I'm fascinated with engineering and I adore hanging out with my friends and meeting new people. At Columbia I could be Moe Berg. But maybe just a little more handsome...

-For applicants to Columbia College, please tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the field or fields of study that you noted in the Member Questions section. If you are currently undecided, please write about any field or fields in which you may have an interest at this time. (300 words or less)

"Comedy is just a funny way of being serious" - Peter Ustinov

I want to write comedy; I want to perform comedy; I want to make people laugh, because it makes me happy. While I believe there's altruism in comedy, I'm not pursuing it exclusively for that reason. There's sick people out there and I'm not gonna sit here and pretend I can heal them with jokes. Laughter is not the best medicine. Medicine is the best medicine.

I think comedy is important though. As I watch George Carlin and Richard Pryor, Lenny Bruce and Eddie Murphy, I see the social impact that's come about through their courage. They didn't live their lives in fear of offending anyone, quite the contrary. They lived to speak about issues inherently uncomfortable, things we turned a blind eye towards because acknowledging them would be too painful. While Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Barack Obama, and Neil Gorsuch all fight for justice on the political field, I'd like to fight for it on the comedic one. I think comedy has a role in social change and I believe Columbia will help me—as it did them—develop my voice and empower me to make this world a better

place.

At Columbia, I'm getting breadth. Anybody can write jokes about spelling errors, it's a lot harder to write jokes about "Rethinking the Middle East" or "Energy and Energy Conservation," both courses offered in the Science and Global Core Requirements, respectively. I believe in order to responsibly comment on the world around me, I have to do it with an educated perspective. Columbia's Core Curriculum offers such a unique opportunity to become well versed in subjects beyond my Creative Writing Major, which won't just make me a better comedian, but a more insightful one.