

UC PERSONAL INSIGHT PROMPTS

Writing an effective personal statement will serve you well as you begin to apply for colleges. According to the UC System, the personal statement helps you explain why you are a “good fit” for their school and “it’s where you become an individual, and where you can share your personality, your goals, your experiences, and where you can explain any opportunities or obstacles that have affected your academic record.” Whether you plan to attend a UC campus or not, the ability to tell your story, set forth goals, and declare academic and professional intentions with clarity and impact will be valuable.

Additionally, you are expected to demonstrate all you have learned in your English courses about the principles of effective writing. Therefore, you must apply your knowledge of clear argumentation ideas, use of evidence, organization of sentences and paragraphs, word choice, sentence structure, and grammar conventions. Most important to an effective personal statement is voice; the reader should hear your individual voice shining throughout this written piece.

Even though you will only submit four responses in your application, for the purposes of this assignment you will complete all eight. Title each according to this structure:

Personal Insight Prompt #____: _____ (____)
The first blank represents the number of the prompt, the second represents your own original title, and the third represents the word count.

Sample titles might look like:

Personal Insight Prompt #2: Finding Myself in a Painting (347)

Personal Insight Prompt #7: Trash on a Beach Can Indeed Lead to Treasure (286)

PROMPTS

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?