

UC College Application Essay Prompts

1. *UC Prompt #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?

Draft 1

Among the many things that I have shared so far in my responses are my good grades, strong work ethic, my devotion to my faith, and great personality. But there is so much more to me than these outstanding qualities. For example, I also love sports, especially basketball. In my 10th grade AVID class, we took a field trip to watch UCLA play basketball against Cal Berkeley at the Pauley Pavilion. The game was amazing and I enjoyed watching the athletes compete. The game ended with UCLA winning 86-72. I was so excited and felt comfortable in the whole college athletics experience. (102 words)

I play basketball in high school. I am not a starter, but I am on the varsity team and have been for two years. While I know I will not play basketball for a college team, I am excited about the opportunity to be involved in basketball and all sports on campus. The experience of watching my first UCLA game hooked me; it made me a fan of college athletics for life. I want to attend all home basketball games, and any other live sporting event my schedule allows. I want to be part of something bigger than myself and I see college and college sports as an outlet for that goal. (214 words)

In high school, I organize activities like pick-up basketball games and tournaments. I like playing in these games, but I also have found enjoyment in organizing the games. Spending time with my friends playing sports helps relieve the stress of school and life. My cousin goes to Loyola Marymount University and she told me that they have recreational sports on campus through the student rec center. When I visited her last summer, I made sure to see that part of campus and I really enjoyed it. I can picture myself spending time taking advantage of the athletics and sports training offered on a campus like that. (320 words)

Draft 2

Every applicant to the University of California system has many positive qualities. Some are great students, some are creative minds, some are outstanding athletes, and characteristics of compelling college students. An admission to a University of California campus like Irvine, my first choice in schools, is a daunting task. Admissions officers must identify students that will thrive on campus academically as well as socially. Students who take an interest in life on

campus tend to have better experiences than those that simply attend classes. (84 words)

One of additional quality that makes me a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California system is that I love sports, especially college basketball. In my 10th grade AVID class, we took a field trip to watch UCLA play basketball against Cal Berkeley at Pauley Pavilion. The game was amazing and I revel in college experience. The game ended with UCLA winning 86-72 and I left amazed that college was more than just hard classes, it was fun. (164 words)

I play basketball in high school. I am not a starter, but I am on the varsity team and have been for two years. While I know I will not play basketball for a college team, I am excited about the opportunity to be involved in all sports on campus. The experience of watching my first UCLA game hooked me; it made me a fan of college athletics for life. That night at Pauley Pavilion made me realize that experience to be part of my college life. I want to attend more basketball games and other live sporting events to cheer on my school. I want to be part of something bigger than myself and I see college sports as an outlet for that goal. (289 words)

After the field trip, I started organizing activities like pick-up basketball games and tournaments at my high school. I like playing in the games, and I found enjoyment in planning events for others, a skill that may prove useful in the future. The ideal candidate for admissions to the University of California must show school spirit along with an academic focus, qualities I am ready to bring to the University. (359 words)