

UCF College Application Essay Prompts

COALITION FOR COLLEGE:

UF – University of Florida; FSU – Florida State University

USF – University of South Florida (no essay required); plus many other colleges in the USA

The prompts for the 2020-21 application year are:

- Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
- Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
- Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
- What is the hardest part of being a student now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
- Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

FSU CARE – CARE Summer Bridge Program in 2020 (4 short answer response questions):

Complete all CARE short answer responses (each response is limited to 300 words each):

1. Difficult life challenges often impact the educational journey of a student. Describe a significant life challenge that influenced your educational journey.
2. What did you learn from that experience that will help you be successful at Florida State University?
3. Transitioning to college can be both an exciting and a challenging experience. What do you anticipate experiencing as a first-generation college student transitioning to Florida State University?
4. CARE provides students with a strong network of support and engagement opportunities while at FSU. How will the additional support from CARE and the FSU community enhance your college experiences?

These short answer responses for CARE are **IN ADDITION TO** one of the 5 essay topics listed above.

UCF – University of Central Florida

Although optional, the essay assists the Admissions Committee in knowing you as an individual, independent of test scores and other objective data. We ask that you respond to **two of the topics** below. Your responses should be no longer than a total of 500 words or 7,000 characters.

- If there has been some obstacle or bump in the road in your academic or personal life, please explain the circumstances.
- How has your family history, culture or environment influenced who you are?
- Why did you choose to apply to UCF?
- What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that will allow you to contribute to the UCF community?

COMMON APPLICATION (New College of Florida, UCF, many other private and public universities around the country)

2019-20 Essay Prompts (will remain the same for 2020-21):

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.