

Ivy+ Supplemental Essay Specificity Checklist

A one-page checklist for “Why Us”, community, and intellectual curiosity prompts.

1) Fit thesis (1–2 sentences)

- Thesis states what I want to study/explore.
- Thesis states what environment I’m seeking (and why).

2) Academic fit (2–3 specifics)

- I included 2–3 academic specifics (classes, sequences, labs, programs).
- Each detail answers “so what?” (what I’ll do with it).
- At least one detail bridges to my track record (past work → campus).

3) Community fit (1–2 specifics)

- I included 1–2 community specifics (orgs, mentorship pathways, leadership tracks).
- I tied them to how I’ve already contributed (now scaled on campus).

4) Close (contribution + forward motion)

- I ended with what I’ll bring and how I’ll show up.
- My ending has a concrete next step (not vague enthusiasm).

Anti-generic check

- If I swap the school name, the essay no longer works.
- I removed rankings/prestige language.
- I avoided laundry lists (fewer details, explained well).

20-minute research (fill this in)

Academic specific #1

Academic specific #2

Community specific

Bridge detail (school → my track record)