

Every time we write, we're striving for these three goals:

1. Clarity
2. Concision
3. Specificity
4. Elegance

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mGuSbRkjbR9v3R7_KJUXWH8tKPFQ9do7?usp=sharing

Stevens
~~Rutgers~~
~~Northeastern~~
Penn State
Drexel

Stevens

The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice and demonstrate why you want to study at Stevens Institute of Technology. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words).

- Consider the mission of Stevens Institute of Technology. Share how you plan to contribute to and benefit from the Stevens community, highlighting any personal experiences, achievements, or aspirations that demonstrate your commitment to inclusivity and your potential to thrive at our university.

- Reflect on a challenge or setback you have faced in your life and explain how you have grown from it. In what ways do you believe this experience has prepared you to thrive academically and personally at Stevens? Additionally, discuss how your unique perspective and ability to overcome obstacles will contribute to the Stevens community and its mission of innovation and excellence.

- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and new understanding of yourself or others. How does new understanding contribute to potential success at Stevens?

LEHIGH

How did you first learn about Lehigh University and what motivated you to apply?*

We believe the quality and richness of a Lehigh education lies in us being a community of individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, ideas and viewpoints—a community where every individual is able to bring their full selves to every conversation and everything they do. We are committed to fostering a campus experience where everyone is empowered to share a broad range of perspectives in all of our campus learning environments.

With this in mind, choose one of the following prompts and respond:

1. What would you want to be different in your own community (local, school, religious, academic, etc.) or the broader global community to further principles of equality or equity?

2. What factors have most shaped who you are and what you believe today? You might discuss an obstacle that you have overcome or an experience that has inspired you.

3. Share with us a part of your personal background, perspective, experience or academic interest that has shaped you as a person and that would uniquely add to the Lehigh community.*

Drexel (optional)

Drexel is committed to preparing each new generation of students to become productive, professional and civic-minded members of the community while continuing to focus on how we can contribute to solving some of society's greatest challenges. What do you view as a challenge facing society that you would like to contribute to solving? How would a Drexel education aid you in taking the first step toward a solution? (250 words or less)

Penn State (optional)

Please tell us something about yourself, your experiences, or activities that you believe would reflect positively on your ability to succeed at Penn State. This is your opportunity to tell us something about yourself that is not already reflected in your application or academic records.

UMD

To tell us more about yourself, please complete the following prompts using only the space provided (650 characters).

If I could travel anywhere, I would go to...*

The most interesting fact I ever learned from research was...*

In addition to my major, my academic interests include...*

My favorite thing about last Thursday was...*

Something you might not know about me is...*

Because we know that diversity benefits the educational experience of all students, the University of Maryland values diversity in all of its many forms. This includes (but is not limited to) racial, socio-economic, gender, geographical, and sexual orientation. We are interested in hearing about your own individual life experiences. In a few sentences, will you please describe how you have learned, grown, been inspired or developed skills through one or more components of diversity.*

Villanova

Why do you want to call Villanova your new home and become part of our community?

Please respond in about 150 words.*

Please select the number of the prompt to which you will respond. *

- Choose an option -

Prompt 1

St. Augustine states that well-being is “not concerned with myself alone, but with my neighbor’s good as well.” How have you advocated for equity and justice in your communities?

Prompt 2

As an Augustinian community, we believe that you should see people for who they are. Please share with us a time when you were misjudged based on your identity or background.

Prompt 3

In the Villanova community, we learn from one another. What is a lesson in life that you have learned that you would want to share with others?

Have faith

Prompt 4

At Villanova, we often say “each of us strengthens all of us.” In a time of personal challenges, how do you borrow from the strength of others?

Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech’s guidance on how to approach or utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) in your application is here. We also provide further advice and recommendations specifically about AI use for our Personal Essay.

Why do you want to study your chosen major specifically at Georgia Tech?*

Cornell

in the aftermath of the U.S. Civil War, Ezra Cornell wrote, “I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.” For over 150 years, Cornell University has remained deeply committed to Ezra’s vision. Explain how your life experiences will help inform your contributions to a learning community devoted to “...any person...any study.” We encourage you to think broadly about your life experiences, including how local (e.g., family, school, neighborhood) or global communities you’ve been part of have helped shape your perspective.*

NYU

We are looking for peacemakers, changemakers, global citizens, boundary breakers, creatives and innovators - Choose one quote from the following and let us know why it inspires you; or share a short quote and person not on our list who inspires you, and include why.

RPI

List the names and dates of any college courses you have taken or are currently taking (including the institution name). If the course(s) do NOT appear on your high school transcript, please be sure to have the transcript(s) sent to the admissions office.

Why are you interested in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute?

U Chicago

How does the University of Chicago, as you know it now, satisfy your desire for a particular kind of learning, community, and future? Please address with some specificity your own wishes and how they relate to UChicago.*

Choose one of the seven extended essay options and upload a one- or two-page response. Please include the prompt at the top of the page.

1. Exponents and square roots, pencils and erasers, beta decay and electron capture. Name two things that undo each other and explain why both are necessary.

—Inspired by Emmett Cho, Class of 2027

2. “Where have all the flowers gone?” – Pete Seeger. Pick a question from a song title or lyric and give it your best answer.

—Inspired by Ryan Murphy, AB’21

3. “Vlog,” “Labradoodle,” and “Fauxmage.” Language is filled with portmanteaus. Create a new portmanteau and explain why those two things are a “patch” (perfect match).

—Inspired by Garrett Chalfin, Class of 2027

4. A jellyfish is not a fish. Cat burglars don’t burgle cats. Rhode Island is not an island. Write an essay about some other misnomer, and either come up with and defend a new name for it or explain why its inaccurate name should be kept.

—Inspired by Sonia Chang, Class of 2025, and Mirabella Blair, Class of 2027

5. Despite their origins in the Gupta Empire of India or Ancient Egypt, games like chess or bowling remain widely enjoyed today. What modern game do you believe will withstand the test of time, and why?

—Inspired by Adam Heiba, Class of 2027

6. There are unwritten rules that everyone follows or has heard at least once in their life. But of course, some rules should be broken or updated. What is an unwritten rule that you wish didn’t exist? (Our custom is to have five new prompts each year, but this year we decided to break with tradition. Enjoy!)

—Inspired by Maryam Abdella, Class of 2026

7. And, as always... the classic choose your own adventure option! In the spirit of adventurous inquiry, choose one of our past prompts (or create a question of your own). Be original, creative, thought provoking. Draw on your best qualities as a writer, thinker, visionary, social critic, sage, citizen of the world, or future citizen of the University of Chicago; take a little risk, and have fun!*