

I was warned against putting all my essays online, so I've decided to summarize what I wrote and put notes for each essay. However, I left three main essays to help you see my writing style.

Copying is the quickest way to get denied. Just don't do it :)

The first 11 are a part of my QB application and the next 11 are supplements. If you apply using The Common App, you'll have just one long essay + the supplements.

Remember to be yourself and make your personality shine through, even if it ends up sounding a little corny (like mine), it'll be fine lol.

QuestBridge National College Match Essays

2018

35 words or less:

What is your favorite subject to study, and why?

- I wrote about psychology and the study of the human mind.
- I would avoid "My favorite subject is _____ because" and take a more creative route to answering this question.

What are your favorite books and/or movies?

- I wrote about "The Social Network" and listed some other movies.
- This one is simple, don't overthink it!

What is your favorite source of inspiration?

- I talked about social media and taking in so much information on a daily basis.
- Just be honest, even if it sounds crazy. If it inspires you, it inspires you!

How do you spend a typical weekend?

- This was my least favorite, but I was just honest about relaxing on weekends when I wasn't too busy.

What is the compliment that you have been paid that you are most proud of? Who gave you the compliment?

- I talked about speaking in front of a crowd and how my principal complimented me.
- Try not to choose a superficial compliment, but something that'll highlight your successes.

After a challenging experience, how do you rejuvenate?

- I wrote about cleaning and relaxing my mind.

- This one was kind of difficult to write, but just reflect on what you do after a long week or something stressful.

What would you contribute to your future college campus community?

- This is honestly the most important 35 word essay. It's important for colleges to know that you will contribute once on campus.

200 words or less:

Tell us about one of your proudest achievements or moments and what it says about you.

- I wrote about getting a full scholarship to study abroad in Japan.
- When writing the "what it says about you" try not to blatantly state qualities about yourself, but talk about what you learned and how it impacted you.

If you could meet a character from a book or a historical figure, who would it be and what would you ask them?

- I wrote about an artist named Jean-Michel Basquiat and connected my questions to my curiosity of human behavior and the mind.
- I'd try to avoid common answers such as famous people or celebrities because those are unoriginal. Dig deep and find someone you'd actually want to have a conversation with!

500 words or less:

What do you admire most about your community? What would you improve?

- Waking up and travelling to the same place for nearly half your life can allow you to find a constant routine. What I admire most about my community is its consistency, its dependability. Day in and day out, the _____ Community welcomes me into its ever-growing environment. With my school being the center of a once broken and crime-stricken area, I have been able to witness community revitalization, where students such as myself have been able to thrive. Although the area around it has steadily changed, _____ School has provided a sense of constancy in my life. Since 2005, the safety and structure provided to me by this school has allowed me to become a high-achieving minority student. Being able to attend a school from cradle-to-college has been a privilege I hope many will take advantage of. Now, through the _____ organization, many schools in Atlanta have the ability to provide the same educational opportunities

for students and families. With _____ serving as the model of success, we represent how low-income African-American students can and will exceed expectations if given the proper resources.

Along with the incoming success, awards, and grants, _____ has begun to attract the attention of many families outside of the _____ Community. While this brings diversity and more money to the community, we should still attempt to preserve the history and culture of _____. In its infancy, _____ was ranked 69th out of the 69 Atlanta Public Schools. Through hard work, we have been able to combat the poor perceptions of African-American students. _____ can continue to serve the minority, while welcoming the majority into the area. My community is experiencing radical gentrification with converging worlds of people from different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. In my AP English Language Composition class, we had many discussions regarding current events in society. These topics warranted critical thinking and awareness about many issues that occur in our day-to-day lives. This brought up many questions about the historical happenings that led _____ along this path. After conversations with my college counselor, I learned that in the past, there were stringent guidelines for families who desired to return to the _____ community. Leaders of the revitalization plan required people to have a job and no previous felonies on their record. While the goal was to preserve the indigenous culture, it disproportionately impacted communities of color due to systematic racism. In turn, this made it extremely hard for people of color to gain access to the affordable housing and free schooling in this area.

Years later, we can observe another round of gentrification in _____. In efforts to balance the negative effects of gentrification, my school utilizes a lottery system for admission. The lottery gives priority to students and families who live in _____'s mixed-income housing before extending it to others. I would improve this community by preserving the culture of _____ School and continuing to bridge the achievement gap.

800 words or less:

We are interested in learning more about you and the context in which you have grown up, formed your aspirations, and accomplished your academic successes. Please describe the factors and challenges that have most shaped your personal life and aspirations. How have these factors helped you to grow?

Stepping out onto the balcony, I watch my father lay out the drop cloth on the dead grass. He drags a large, blank canvas to the center of the cloth before ascending the creaking wooden stairs. "Jackson Pollock" is all my dad says

before opening various cans of leftover interior house paint. Without warning, he tosses a can of dark paint off of the balcony. I peer over the red railing, seeing the once white canvas now littered with black blobs. I now understood the lack of dialogue from my father, letting the artwork speak for itself. He continues to add layer after layer, color after color, saying true artwork is never completed. This artwork, now hanging in our living room, metaphorically represents my life, my upbringing, and how multiple layers make up who I am today.

To say that growing up in a highly artistic, liberal household had an impact on me would be quite an understatement. For as long as I can remember, my parents have stressed the importance of creativity and ingenuity in addition to academics. With my mother being a jewelry designer and my father a filmmaker, I am surrounded by an aura of artistry. Even though the lack of permanent jobs led to the absence of health insurance and reliance on food stamps, I still admired my parents' way of life. While it took many failed attempts, my parents have each found a career that makes them happy. Their actions inspire me to stay true to my dreams, despite what others may think. Since both are self-employed and work from home, I have been able to see their creative processes. This propelled me to mold a creative environment for myself. At a young age, I tried many aspects of art, such as drawing, painting, and photography.. Although they could not afford actual lessons, my parents found every opportunity for me to explore these hobbies. From Friday night "movie nights" to monthly visits to Atlanta's High Museum of Art, they taught me that not only could art be used as a creative outlet, but also an enjoyable and flexible learning process.

However, my parents did not want me to follow the path that they had taken. Complaining of the high cost of college, they emphasized the need for me to obtain scholarships and avoid the mistakes they made. Being a first-generation college student, I know I need to take advantage of my parents' wisdom in order to succeed. My mom often tells the story of when her family migrated from India to New York. I can only imagine how challenging this transition was; it reminds me how strong-willed and independent my mother is. After moving out on her own for college, she and my father began to raise a family, ensuring their children's success using whatever they could. From a very young age, my mother and father provided me with tools to expand my knowledge. My mother used to hang post-it notes around our apartment to teach me word association, and although my father was often away from home for work, he would read stories to me at night.

After moving in 2005, I began to attend _____ School, where my love for learning was born. Year after year, I found that school was something that I

was “good” at. Earning good grades had always been the norm; my parents made sure my homework was completed before my bedtime at 9:30 every night. Watching television was not allowed on the weekdays, and later, when I got my first phone, it was to be turned in before I went to my room for the night. At the time, I saw no purpose in my parents’ tactics, but in retrospect, I appreciate the measures they took to ensure my academic success. Despite the challenges my family and I have had to overcome, I would not change my life in any way. The combination of their early efforts and my enjoyment for learning has allowed me to become the high-achieving young woman I am today. Layer after layer, I will continue to build character through working towards my dream and making my parents proud.

Stanford Supplements

50 word maximum:

What is the most significant challenge that society faces today?

- I wrote about socioeconomic inequalities around the world.
- Be honest and show your passion, whether it’s about social justice, healthcare, etc.

How did you spend your last two summers?

- I talked about taking an accelerated math class and then studying abroad.
- Make it sound good, even if you only relaxed during the summer.

What historical moment or event do you wish you could have witnessed?

- I wrote about when humans genuinely believed the earth was flat.
- I tried to avoid a common answer so I researched what a lot of people wrote about so I wouldn’t write about the same things!

What five words best describe you?

- I wrote a 5-word phrase and my admissions officer referenced this answer in my handwritten letter!
- Don’t overthink this one. A lot of people just list 5 terms, some list 6 and put one as “rule breaker” or “rebel”, and others put a phrase, like me.

When the choice is yours, what do you read, listen to, or watch?

- I talked about listening to podcasts and music on Spotify.
- Just be honest about this one. It doesn’t matter if it’s about anime or philosophical books or anything in between, they just want to know a little more about you.

Name one thing you are looking forward to experiencing at Stanford.

- I talked about traditions, which is cliché.
- It was honest though!

Imagine you had an extra hour in the day — how would you spend that time?

- I said I would take more time preparing for the day and getting my mind right.
- A lot of people say “sleep.”

150 words or less:

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences that was particularly meaningful to you.

- I talked about the spirit club I helped found. I could’ve wrote about my volunteer and leadership work with the Beta Club or my other clubs, but I wanted to show that there’s a fun side to high school and it’s not all work and commitment. This was a light-hearted answer that my AO also referenced in my letter!

100 word minimum and 250-word maximum:

The Stanford community is deeply curious and driven to learn in and out of the classroom. Reflect on an idea or experience that makes you genuinely excited about learning.

- Growing up in the public school system, I was often surrounded by students who “hated” school and had “better things to do.” As I grew older, I found it common that the public school environment was not suitable to promote success for each and every student. As a result, I am eager to start anew at a university that cultivates an atmosphere where learning is valued, instead of just expected. The experience that makes me genuinely excited about learning is the same one that makes me thrilled about life after high school: attending college. Years of build up, expectation, and motivation has made me look forward to finally leaving home and continuing my education on a higher level. It is where I will explore worlds of new information, meet a plethora of multifaceted people, and prepare myself for a brighter future. No longer will I be surrounded by students who do not care about school, but instead by those who value the opportunity to gain knowledge through a rigorous education. With an amazing class selection, professors who genuinely want to teach, and a highly collaborative academic environment, the idea of attending Stanford does nothing *but* excite me.

Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate—and us—know you better.

- This was my favorite essay to write! It's the one where you can show the most personality. I talked about my fear of bugs, watching netflix and listening to music, my whiteboard calendar, being open to going on adventures, and then saying something heartfelt to my future roommate.
- Just be yourself! This is the most fun prompt and you can write it from any angle. It's okay to use slang or be less professional than your other essays. Be creative.

Tell us about something that is meaningful to you, and why.

- This is the essay I wrote about my lava lamp! I connected it to my personal evolution and my mental health.
- For this essay, you can go deep or you can stay on the surface.
- It doesn't matter what the thing is, if it's meaningful to you, show why.