



HBS – Essay Questions 2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012

2012 HBS essay questions

01. Tell us about something you did well (400 words);
02. Tell us about something you wish you had done better (400 words).

2011 HBS essay questions

01. Tell us about three of your accomplishments. (600 words);
02. Tell us three setbacks you have faced. (600 words);
03. Why do you want an MBA (400 words);
04. Answer a question you wish we'd asked. (400 words).

2010 HBS essay questions

- What are your three most substantial accomplishments and why do you view them as such? (600-word limit)
- What have you learned from a mistake? (400-word limit)
- Please respond to two of the following (400-word limit each):
 1. What would you like the MBA Admissions Board to know about your undergraduate academic experience?
 2. Discuss how you have engaged with a community or organization.
 3. Tell us about a time when you made a difficult decision.
 4. Write a cover letter to your application introducing yourself to the Admissions Board.
 5. What is your career vision and why is this choice meaningful to you?

2009 HBS essay questions

1. What are your three most substantial accomplishments and why do you view them as such? (600-word limit)
2. What have you learned from a mistake? (400-word limit)
3. Please respond to two of the following (400-word limit each):
 1. What would you like the MBA Admissions Board to know about your undergraduate academic experience?
 2. Discuss how you have engaged with a community or organization.
 3. What area of the world are you most curious about and why?
 4. What is your career vision and why is this choice meaningful to you?



2008 HBS essay questions

1. What are your three most substantial accomplishments and why do you view them as such? (600-word limit)
2. What have you learned from a mistake? (400-word limit)
3. Please respond to three of the following (400-word limit each)
 1. Discuss a defining experience in your leadership development. How did this experience highlight your strengths and weaknesses?
 2. How have you experienced culture shock?
 3. What would you like the MBA Admissions Board to know about your undergraduate academic experience?
 4. What is your career vision and why is this choice meaningful to you?
 5. What global issue is most important to you and why?
 6. What else would you like the MBA Admissions Board to understand about you?

2007 HBS essay questions

1. What would you like the MBA Admissions Board to know about your undergraduate academic experience? (400-word limit)
2. What are your three most substantial accomplishments and why do you view them as such? (600-word limit)
3. Discuss a defining experience in your leadership development. How did this experience highlight your strengths and weaknesses as a leader? (400 words)
4. In your career, you will have to deal with many ethical issues. What are likely to be the most challenging and what is your plan for developing the competencies you will need to handle these issues effectively? (400-word limit)
5. What is your career vision and why is this choice meaningful to you? (400 words)
6. What other information do you believe would be helpful to the Board in understanding you better and in considering your application? (400 words)