

Pre-Brainstorm Tasks
University of California Personal Insight Questions 2021

UC Personal Insight Questions

Choose four of the following prompts, and respond to each in an essay no longer than 350 words. A total of four essays is required.

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

Before you start writing your responses to the UC PIQs, complete the three tasks below.

Task 1

Look at the essays you have already written, including the Common Application personal statement and supplements. For each, make notes in the table below.

Essay	Brief description of essay	What characteristic(s) does this essay convey?	Which UC PIQ (s) might fit?	How would I modify the original to fit the UC PIQ?
<i>Example: Common App</i>	<i>Helping Jane with her trash</i>	<i>I care about my community</i>	<i>7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Common App version as a base. • Edit to fit UC word limit. • Focus on how this makes my community a better place.

Task 2

List any additional characteristics you want to illustrate. For each, note at least one RECENT example that demonstrates that characteristic, and indicate which prompt (or prompts) that example could address.

Sample:

Characteristic: I am a problem-solver

Example: When I attended the robotics competition, one of our best teammates got sick. I stepped in and took care of the tasks he is usually responsible for.

UC prompt 2: Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

Task 3

Based on your notes from tasks 1 and 2, which four PIQs do you think you will answer? What stories could you share for each?

PIQ	Story Idea	What will readers learn about me (characteristics)?