

# **Sample Essay Questions**

Consider this sampling of essay questions asked by various colleges:

**Describe the future.**

- *New York University*

**Independent inquiry is the hallmark of an intellectually curious mind. How does an intellectual activity in which you have participated fit this criterion?**

- *University of Richmond*

**There is a significant difference between a stupid mistake and a clever one. Give an example of a "clever" mistake you have made and explain how it benefited you or others.**

- *Northwestern University*

**Describe and evaluate one experience that significantly influenced your academic interests. The experience might be a high school course, a job, a relationship, or an extracurricular activity. Be sure to explain how this experience led to the goals you now have set for yourself and why you think the academic program for which you are applying will help you reach those goals.**

- *Southwest Texas State University*

**Have you witnessed a person who is close to you doing something that you considered seriously wrong? Describe the circumstances, your thoughts, and how you chose to respond. If you discussed it with the person, was his/her justification valid? In retrospect, what, if anything, would you have done differently and why?**

- *Duke University*

**What you do in the classroom defines only a part of who you are. How do you spend your time when you are not in class or studying? Focus on one activity, two at the most, and discuss what you have gained from your involvement.**

- *University of California*

**How has your family history, culture, or environment influenced who you are?**

- *Florida State University*

**Albright offers a January Interim program. If you could spend one Interim working on a project in any part of the world, where would you go and what type of project would you pursue?**

- *Albright College*

**You are about to embark on a lengthy road trip in a two-passenger car with no radio. What person—real or fictional—would you choose to accompany you and why?**

- *Marquette University*

**Describe an event or idea in your intellectual life that has piqued your curiosity and tell how that idea or event has affected the way you see the world.**

- *Youngstown State University*