

5 Simple Tips to Write Your Personal Insight Questions



1 Be Personal

Write your responses in a conversational tone and avoid using overly complex vocabulary. Admissions officers understand that you're not an award-winning author

2 Select the Right Questions

Select the 4 PIQs that reveal the most about your qualities, passions, values, or skills. Avoid choosing the questions you think admission officers will like the most. Remember, all questions have equal value!

3 Provide New Information Only

You only have 350 words per question. Don't waste them on information you have already revealed in other sections of the application. Avoid resume-type responses at all costs

4 Show, Don't Tell

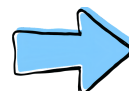
Don't undervalue your experiences! Include the important details that will allow the reader to know more about who you are. Don't just tell them how you were a leader, show them! Quantify examples so the reader has a better chance to understand the scope of your work.

5 So What?

Always reflect back on your writing! Write how your experiences have impacted your life. Ask yourself the following questions: Why is the topic relevant to your life? How has it impacted you personally? So what?



Save your drafts in one doc and share for feedback!



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Before Applying Checklist

- ☐ Request & review your transcript
-Email your counselor, if needed
- ☐ Make a list of your Reach, Target, and Safety schools
- ☐ Narrow down your intended major
- ☐ Research scholarships and create a list
- ☐ Complete your academic resume
- ☐ Make a plan to reduce stress

**Academic
Resume
Template**



PIQ Brainstorm



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.

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- _____
- _____
- _____

- _____
- _____
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- _____

3

What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

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- _____
- _____

- _____
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4

Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

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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?

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- _____

6 Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

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- _____

7 What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

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- _____

8 Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

