

Essay Prompts-

Please read below for College Application Essay Prompts for the Common Application, the Coalition Application (Rutgers and Maryland), Stern College, Stern Honors, Macaulay CUNY Honors, and Lander College and Lander College Honors.

Common Application Essay Prompts – Choose one of the following-

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

The Coalition Application Essay Prompts – Choose one of the following-

1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
2. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
3. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
4. What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
5. Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

YU Essay Prompts -

General Admissions (BA Program)

Applicants must respond to *one of the following* prompts in 750 words or fewer. Essays should be uploaded to the applicant's personal application portal.

1. Who is one person, past or present, with whom you would like to switch places for one day? Explain.
2. Describe a time in your life when you had to decide between taking a risk and playing it safe. What choice did you make? What was the outcome of your choice? Would you have made the same decision looking back on the experience or would you make a different decision?

Stern Honors Program Essays –

- Applicants to the **S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College for Women** or the **Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College** must complete *each of the following* essays in **500-750 words**:
 1. **Argumentative Essay:** Go back in time, change one event in history, and describe the ramifications on today's world.
 2. **Personal Essay:** Describe a favorite book or movie where the main character had to make a difficult decision. What do you think about their choice? How would you have handled the situation?
- Applicants to the **Sy Syms Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program** must complete each of the following essays in **500-750 words**:
 1. **Argumentative Essay:** Go back in time, change one event in history, and describe the ramifications on today's world.
 2. **Personal Essay:** The following is a quote from the character Gordon Gekko in the 1987 movie Wall Street:

"The point is, ladies and gentleman, that greed, for lack of a better word, is good. Greed is right, greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed, in all of its forms; greed for life, for money, for love, knowledge has marked the upward surge of mankind."

Do you agree or disagree with Gordon Gekko's statement and why? Please provide examples to support your argument.

Stern Honors Short Answers

- Please submit responses (**150 characters or fewer**) to the following five prompts. Responses should be uploaded to the applicant's personal application portal.
 1. What is one issue about which you are passionate?
 2. Name one high school project or activity that made you feel accomplished.
 3. What is one innovation or human achievement you would like to see in your lifetime.
 4. If you were given one million dollars to donate to the charity of your choice, which would it be?
 5. Please submit the title and a shortened URL of your favorite YouTube video.

Macaulay CUNY Honors College Essay Prompts-

If you decide to apply to Macaulay Honors College class of 2024, you will be required to submit two personal essays as part of the Macaulay application.

We post the topics during the summer for students who wish to begin thinking about what they will write. The application for the class of 2024 will open on September 1, 2019.

Please select one topic from each section.

Personal Reflection

Choose 1; 500 words maximum:

- Describe an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
- Reflecting on your experience and aspirations, discuss how your life will differ from your parents' lives. Provide concrete evidence to illustrate your position.

Social Issues

Choose 1; 500 words maximum:

- Pick a story of local, national, or international importance from the front page of any newspaper. Identify your source and give the date the article appeared. Then use your sense of humor, sense of outrage, sense of injustice – or just plain good sense – to explain why the story engages your attention.
- What is the most urgent problem facing New Yorkers today and how would you address it? Be specific in order to make a strong case.

Lander College For Women (Touro) Essay Prompts-

General Admission Essays

See the general admission essays below. Students should select one prompt and respond in a 5 paragraph essay.

- 1) Describe a unique event in your life that has left a lasting impression and why?
- 2) Discuss the factors leading you to apply to one of the Lander Divisions, your academic interests, and your future plans. You may also describe other activities, achievements, or special circumstances which you would like to bring to the attention of the Committee of Admissions.

Honors Essays- Applicants for honors do not need to submit the General Admissions Essay

See the essay prompts below: You must submit **2** original 500-750 word essays. Any quotes must be cited:

1. Discuss the book that has had the greatest impact on your life or way of thinking. How has this book influenced you?

2. You have the opportunity to interview any person from *Tanach*, fiction or history. Who would you choose and what would you talk about?

3. Despite the best efforts of the Jewish community, the nuclear threat from Iran has not sparked concern among the Jewish or general community in the US or Europe. Why is the threat from Iran not perceived as dramatic or imminent by most people? If you had the power what would you do differently?

4. What song(s) would you include on the soundtrack of your life?

5. If you could change one law or policy of the United States government, what would you choose?

6. Who is the person that you would most want to model your career after? Why is this person your professional role model?

For Medical Health Pathway- submit an additional essay of no more than 5,300 characters discussing why you are interested in a career in medicine and enrollment in the Medical Honors Pathway: