**2020 Essay Prompts-**

**Please read below for College Application Essay Prompts for the Common Application, the Coalition Application (Rutgers and Maryland), YU, YU Honors, Macaulay CUNY Honors and CUNY General Admissions (Queens, Hunter, Baruch, Brooklyn, City College, College of Staten Island).**

* **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 student 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-**
* **Non-Honors/General Applicants**

1. Applicants must respond to the following prompt in either 500-750 words or if preferred, applicants can address the prompt in another medium such as art, music or poetry accompanied by a 300 word narrative.  If you had the opportunity to do over a moment in your life and change how you acted, what moment would you choose? Explain why you have chosen this moment. In what ways have you changed since that original moment that would influence how you would respond or react today.

* **Honors Applicants**

Applicants must respond to the following three short answer questions (150 WORDS each).

1. What is one human achievement or innovation you would like to see in your lifetime?
2. When meeting someone for the first time, what do you want them to know about you but generally do not tell them?
3. Tell us something you are passionate about, and can you share a video which demonstrates this best?

* Applicants must respond to the following prompt in 750-1000 words.

1. 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?

* **Macaulay CUNY Honors Application Essay Prompts –**

**Personal Reflection** - Choose 1 of these two topics:

* ·         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 of these two topics:

* ·         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.
* ·         Given the confluence of crises that we face today, what have you learned about yourself, your family, and your community?
* **CUNY General Admission Application Essay Prompts –**

1. Provide both an essay question and response that you already completed via The Common Application (250-600 words)

or

1. Submit an essay on the topic of your choice. (250-600 words)