College Essay Guy
www.collegeessayguy.com

Instructions for researching your list can be found here.

	What counselor likes	What I (Student) Like	How much I based on NPC	What counselor has questions/concerns about	General % acceptance	Average SAT/ACT score	Average GPA	# of students	Expert Opinion (Fiske)	Student Opinion (Unigo)	Online Tour Links	Links to Check Out	What my friends say	What my/dad like	Potential questions for school rep	Fit score based on research (+ or -)
WILD CARD (Less than 10% chance of getting in)																
[Type school here]																
REACH (Low chance of acceptance, based on my profile)																
[Type school here]																
[Type school here]																
[Type school here]																
MAYBE (In range for my profile, but tough to say)																
[Type school here]																
[Type school here]																
[Type school here]																
LIKELY (I've got a pretty good shot here)																
[Type school here]																
[Type school here]																
[Type school here]																

Not so much (After researching)	Why I (student) think "not so much"		Great Resources for Researching Your List	Best for...
			Niche.com	Student reviews
			The Fiske Guide (bookstores)	The "expert" opinion
			CollegeXpress	Amazing college lists by specific criteria.
			CollegeData.com	Data! Anything numbers related.
			YouVisit	Virtual campus tours.
			Big Future	All around info; College search based on specific criteria

School	Essays Required	Year?	Word Limit	Topic(s)	Notes	Planned Completion Date	Actual Due Date
Common App	Main / Personal Statement		650			October 15	See school website
	Common App Activities List		150 chars per				
	Add'l Info, if needed.		650				
Northwestern (Sample)	In 300 words or less, help us understand how you might engage specific resources, opportunities, and/or communities here. We are curious about what these specifics are, as well as how they may enrich your time at Northwestern and beyond.	2024	300	"Why us"		October 15	See school website
USC (Sample)	**Please respond to one of the prompts below. (250 word limit)*** 1. USC believes that one learns best when interacting with people of different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. Tell us about a time you were exposed to a new idea or when your beliefs were challenged by another point of view. Please discuss the significance of the experience and its effect on you. 2. USC faculty place an emphasis on interdisciplinary academic opportunities. Describe something outside of your intended academic focus about which you are interested in learning. 3. What is something about yourself that is essential to understanding you?	2023	250			October 15	See school website
	Describe how you plan to pursue your academic interests and why you want to explore them at USC specifically. Please feel free to address your first- and second-choice major selections. (Approximately 250 words)*		250				
	(Optional) Starting with the beginning of high school/secondary school, if you have had a gap where you were not enrolled in school during a fall or spring term, please address this gap in your educational history. You do not need to address a summer break. (250 words)		250				
	3. Answer all:						
	Describe yourself in three words		25 characters each				
	What is your favorite snack?		100 characters				
	Dream Job:		100 characters				
	If your life had a theme song, what would it be?		100 characters				
	Dream Trip:		100 characters				
	What TV show will you binge watch next?		100 characters				
	which well-known person or fictional character would your ideal roomate be?		100 characters				
	Favorite book:		100 characters				
	If you could teach a class on any topic, what would it be?		100 characters				
	Engineering & Computer Science Applicants: 1. Engineering and Computer Science students are sometimes assumed to have personalities with shared traits or characteristics. What is a trait or characteristic you believe you share with other engineering and computer science students and another where you differ? Please tell us about these two traits and why you chose them. (250 word limit)* 2. At USC Viterbi, we endeavor to engineer a better world for all humanity. This vision goes hand-in-hand with the objectives of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and their 14 Grand Challenges. Engineers and Computer Scientists are challenged to solve these problems in order to improve life on the planet. Learn more about the NAE Grand Challenges at http://engineeringchallenges.org and tell us which challenge is most important to you, and why. (250 word limit)*		250				
	USC Dornsife Applicants: Please select one of the essay prompts below. 1. The word "education" can take on a variety of meanings. To some, receiving a high school or college diploma is the ultimate mark of being "educated," while others take a different view. Looking past receiving a diploma, what does it mean to you personally to be "educated"? What standards will you put in place to define whether or not you've obtained a great education? 2. Many of us have at least one issue or passion that we care deeply about – a topic on which we would love to share our opinions and insights in hopes of sparking intense interest and continued conversation. If you had ten minutes and the attention of a million people, what would your talk be about?						
[Enter school name]	[Essay topics]						
[School name]	[Essay topics]						
[School name]	[Essay topics]						
[School name]	[Essay topics]						
[School name]	[Essay topics]						
[School name]	[Essay topics]						