**Supplemental Essay Questions**

Some, but not all, of your college applications will include supplemental essay questions in addition to your personal statement / college essay. The supplemental questions may be required or optional. If there is an optional writing prompt, do it! This will add a check in your “demonstrated interest” column in addition to whatever information you are able to convey through a carefully written text. These supplements will primarily fall into one of two categories. The first – and the most common – is the “Why (insert school)?” question in which you need to demonstrate familiarity the specific school. The less common, but growing more common every year, are what we can call the “quirky questions” category. I will list some these question below for your entertainment, but we will not be writing about them in class this year.

We will use these final two days of the school year to research and respond to a “Why (insert school)?” question. Follow the steps listed below to complete this assignment.

Select a school. If you have already visited a college, that would be a great choice. If you have one particular school that you are especially excited about, that would also be a great choice. If not, just pick a school that is on your radar.

Research the school. Research steps include:

* signing up for the college email list and seeing what they send you
* looking at the website
* looking at info about the college on naviance
* talking or corresponding with someone you know who has attended this college
* looking for public discussion groups on social media that relate to this college
* looking at notes you took on a college visit, if you happened to do so – get into the habit of taking notes when you visit colleges!

Take brief notes on your findings in a new document in your shared folder titled with you last name and “Why (actually put the school name here)?”

Plan your essay: For this step, go through an abbreviated version of the steps you took for the personal statement / college essay. Sketch out a rhetorical triangle or SOAPS analysis in the document you already started for this assignment. Like your personal statement / college essay, this is a chance to share something about yourself that they do not already know. Do not simply recite facts about the school. They know those facts already. A successful response to this question will simultaneously demonstrate that you are familiar with the school AND share something unique and interesting about you that demonstrates that you will be a good match for this school.

Write your answer to the “Why (insert school)?” question in the same document that you have been using for this assignment, but make it clear that this is your response and not just more notes. Aim for 200-250 words. Word limits will vary by school, but – roughly – you will be looking at one long paragraph for this response.

Reread and revise. If you have time, share it with a classmate. Remember – these supplemental questions should be written and edited as carefully as your personal statement / college essay. They may be short, but they are a great opportunity to “humbly brag” and add yet another element to your application that makes you distinctive and memorable.

Due (in your shared folder – no hard copies necessary) at the start of class on Wednesday, June 23 (10 points)

**Quirky questions from real schools**

What one invention would you uninvent if you could, and why? ([Brandeis University](http://www.brandeis.edu/))

Every name tells a story: Tell us about your name – any name: first, middle, last, nickname – and its origin. ([Dartmouth College](http://www.dartmouth.edu/" \o "Dartmouth College" \t "_blank))

On September 27, 1777 Lancaster served as the nation's capital for a single day. If you could do anything or be anyone for one single day, what would you do? ([Franklin & Marshall College](http://www.fandm.edu/" \o "Franklin & Marshall College" \t "_blank))

Describe your favorite "Bazinga" moment. ([Lehigh University](http://www.lehigh.edu/))

What scientific discovery or technological advancement in the future will most impact your life as an adult? Explain why. ([Scripps College](http://www.scrippscollege.edu/" \o "Scripps College" \t "_blank))

What matters to you and why? ([Stanford Universty](http://www.stanford.edu/" \o "Stanford Universty" \t "_blank))

Celebrate your nerdy side ([Tufts University](http://www.tufts.edu/" \o "Tufts University" \t "_blank))

Little pigs, french hens, a family of bears. Blind mice, musketeers, the Fates. Parts of an atom, laws of thought, a guideline for composition. Omne trium perfectum? Create your own group of threes, and describe why and how they fit together. ([University of Chicago](http://www.uchicago.edu/) – inspired by student in the Class of 2018)

To tell us more about yourself, please complete the following sentences using only the space provided.

When I grow up...

The most interesting fact I ever learned from research was...

In addition to my major, my academic interests include...

My favorite thing about last Wednesday...

Someone who influences me is... ([University of Maryland](http://www.umd.edu/" \o "University of Maryland" \t "_blank))

UNC Professor Barbara Fredrickson – an expert in positive emotions – has defined love as “micro-moments of connection between people, even strangers.” Tell us about a time when you experienced a “micro-moment of connection.” What did you learn? ([University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill](http://www.unc.edu/" \o "University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill" \t "_blank))

Tell us about Spiders. ([University of Richmond](http://www.richmond.edu/" \o "University of Richmond" \t "_blank))

What sets your heart on fire? ([Villanova University](http://www.villanova.edu/))

What outrages you? Why? ([Wake Forest University](http://www.wfu.edu/" \o "Wake Forest University" \t "_blank))

Imagine yourself in a tutorial at Williams. Of anyone in the world, whom would you choose to be the other student in the class, and why? ([Williams College](http://www.williams.edu/" \o "Williams College" \t "_blank))

Consider the meaning of ''fair''. What impact does fairness – perceived or actual – have in society and your life? Has fairness ever helped or hurt you personally? At what cost or benefit to you or others? ([Washington and Lee University](http://www.wlu.edu/" \o "Washington and Lee University" \t "_blank))