

The UC Personal Insight Questions & 3 Levels of Writing

EFFECTIVE RESPONSES NEED TO ADDRESS 3 LEVELS OF WRITING:

<p>LEVEL 1: Facts (general information) What does it say?</p> <p><i>It is necessary to provide context. Don't assume the reader is familiar with what you are writing about.</i></p>	<p>LEVEL 2: Interpretation (description & details) What does it mean?</p> <p><i>Some level of detail is important, especially when explaining breadth of your experience.</i></p> <p><i>If writing about leadership qualities via your soccer experience, the reader needs to know how long you have played. Are you on a league? How many hours do you spend training/playing?</i></p>	<p>LEVEL 3: Meaning & Significance Why does this matter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why does this matter to you? To the community?</i> • <i>Why should we care?</i> • <i>What did you learn?</i> • <i>How did you grow?</i> • <i>What does this say about your character?</i> • <i>How does this shape your future?</i>
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<p>UC PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS <i>*Not part of the official UC Personal Insight Question, but rather a LEVEL 3 question that when addressed can make your response more powerful by addressing <u>MEANING & SIGNIFICANCE</u> (why this matters)</i></p>	<p>THINGS TO CONSIDER:</p>
<p>Question #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.</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: Why is this experience an example of leadership? Why is this experience important and meaningful to you? How has your leadership had a positive influence/impact and made a difference?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: A leadership role can mean more than just a title - a title may not even be necessary or required. It can mean being a mentor to others, acting as the person in charge of a specific task, or a taking lead role in organizing an event or project. You can be a leader at school, in the community or even at home (translating, caring for siblings or family members, working to help financially, etc.).</p>
<p>Question #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.</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: Why is having this creative outlet important and meaningful to you? How has it changed or influenced the way you see the world and your place in it?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: Creativity is defined as the use of the imagination or original ideas, especially in the production of an artistic work. It can also be expressed in as many ways as there are forms of expression so the possibilities are endless. Expressing yourself can be immensely personal and this is your opportunity to showcase that creativity and way it is important to you.</p>

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<p>Question #3: What would you say is your greatest TALENT OR SKILL? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: Why is having this talent/skill and the work you put in to grow it important/meaningful to you? Describe how this started as an interest/passion. How have you fostered this talent/skill and what impact it has had on your life?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: If there's a talent or skill that you're proud of, this is the time to share it. You don't necessarily have to be recognized or have received awards for your talent (although if you did and you want to talk about, feel free to do so). It could be any type of skill or talent (artistic, athletic, technical, etc.)</p>
<p>Question #4: Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (OR) worked to overcome an EDUCATIONAL BARRIER you have faced.</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: Why is this experience important/meaningful to you? What about this opportunity or barrier has contributed to the person you are today? How has what you learned continue to contribute to your life and shape who you are?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: Write about either an opportunity or a barrier. It's OK if you've experienced one & not the other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An <u>educational opportunity</u> can be anything that has added value to your educational experience and better prepared you for college. Examples: SUMMER program, honors or Advanced Courses (AP), Concurrent Enrollment courses at a community college or choosing to attend your selected high school. • Examples of <u>educational barriers</u> can be anything that you had to work through and overcome to succeed academically (i.e. having a learning disability or learning to speak English). It can also be barriers presented by schooling experiences (attending elementary or middle schools that did not prepare you for the rigor of high school, having long-term substitutes, attending schools with limited college prep or advanced courses, attending a high school with little counseling/college guidance).
<p>Question #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?</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: What did you learn by overcoming this challenge and how has it changed and/or strengthened you? All challenges impact your academic achievement, even if it doesn't have a negative effect, so describe the significance of that impact. If it had a negative impact, how did you overcome it and what changes did you make? If it did not, how did you prevent the challenge from having a negative impact and what did you learn from the experience?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: A challenge could be personal, or something you have faced in your community or school. This is a good opportunity to talk about any obstacles you've faced and what you've learned from the experience.</p>

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<p>Question #6: Think about an ACADEMIC SUBJECT that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: What does your pursuit of immersing yourself in this subject say about who you are? Is this a subject that you are interested in pursuing as a major and/or career? If so, why and how has it impacted your life?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: It doesn't have to be a subject in which you've earned good grades, the important thing is you enjoyed the subject and it impacted you in some way. Think of a class you would go to even if you didn't have to. Discuss how your interest in the subject developed and describe any experience you have had inside and outside the classroom that allowed you to further explore this subject. If it is connected to the class/subject, possible things to include would be volunteer work, summer programs, participation in student organizations and/or other extra-curricular activities.</p>
<p>Question #7: What have YOU DONE to make your SCHOOL (OR) COMMUNITY a BETTER PLACE?</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: Why is this experience important/meaningful to you? Why did you choose to make a positive impact this way and what have you learned from your contribution? How has it changed your life and shaped your future goals?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: Think of community as a term that can encompass a group, team or a place – like your high school, hometown, or home. You can define community as you see fit, just make sure you talk about your role in that community. Remember, even small changes can have a big impact.</p>
<p>Question #8: Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you STAND OUT as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?</p> <p><i>*LEVEL 3: Why is it important for admissions officers to know this information? What does this say about who you are and what you will contribute to the campus community?</i></p>	<p>Things to consider: Don't be afraid to brag a little. Even if you don't think you're unique, you are — remember, there's only one of you in the world. Lots of things can influence who you are, such as your experiences, family, interests and values.</p> <hr/> <p>Consider revisiting prior questions and give a second example or answer the other part of the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● #1: Is there a second LEADERSHIP experience? ● #2: Is there a second CREATIVE SIDE? ● #3: Is there a second TALENT or SKILL? ● #4: If you wrote about an opportunity, write about a barrier or vice versa. ● #5 Is there a second CHALLENGE? ● #6 Is there a second ACADEMIC SUBJECT? ● #7: If you wrote about how you made your SCHOOL a better place, can you write about making your COMMUNITY a better place?

Source: Dr. Claudia Canizales Aguilar