Learn about our supplementary essays!

University of Chicago
When students apply to college, schools will often ask them to write short essays so that admissions counselors can learn more about their personalities, experiences, interests, and ways of thinking. At UChicago, we like students to have fun and get creative with their essays, which is where our supplemental essays come into play. We’re known for how silly and intriguing our essay questions can get, and we want to introduce some of our past prompts to you through this coloring book!

Find x.
—Inspired by Benjamin Nuzzo, an admitted student from Eton College, UK

What’s so odd about odd numbers?
—Inspired by Mario Rosasco, AB’09

How are apples and oranges supposed to be compared? Possible answers involve, but are not limited to, statistics, chemistry, physics, linguistics, and philosophy.
—Inspired by Florence Chan, AB’15

Have you ever walked through the aisles of a warehouse store like Costco or Sam’s Club and wondered who would buy a jar of mustard a foot and a half tall? We’ve bought it, but it didn’t stop us from wondering about other things, like absurd eating contests, impulse buys, excess, unimagined uses for mustard, storage, preservatives, notions of bigness...and dozens of other ideas both silly and serious. Write an essay somehow inspired by (a) super-huge (jar of) mustard.
—Inspired by Katherine Gold

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.
—Inspired by Zilin Cui, Class of 2018

Chicago author Nelson Algren said, “A writer does well if in his whole life he can tell the story of one street.” Chicagoans, but not just Chicagoans, have always found something instructive, and pleasing, and profound in the stories of their block, of Main Street, of Highway 61, of a farm lane, of the Celestial Highway. Tell us the story of a street, path, road—real or imagined or metaphorical.
—Anonymous Suggestion
find x
Tell us the story of your street

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