

College Scout, LLC- Scholarship “Must Do” Essay Prompt Library

★ Common App College Essay Prompt:

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they feel their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, please share your story. (Length: 500–650 words)

When I tried to come up with just one background, identity, interest, or talent to share, I continuously drew a blank. I have never settled on one sport, instrument, hobby, or interest to fully dive into. Instead, I have dipped my toes into many pools of water, learning and engaging with diverse groups of individuals, interests, and ideas.

*Sometimes I think of myself as the main character from a beloved childhood book, *The Rainbow Fish*. It is the story of a fish with a multitude of different colored scales. Many other fish found beauty in these multi-colored scales and wanted some for themselves. But the rainbow fish was prideful and kept his scales to himself, resulting in a loss of friends and a lack of community. After the wise octopus advised him to “[g]ive a glittering scale to each of the other fish,” the rainbow fish realized he would regain his friends and his happiness if he shared his beautiful scales with others.*

My friends, teachers, coaches, and mentors, along with all my hobbies and interests, have given me the different scales that make up the entirety of who I am. My biggest blessing has been my school, which I have attended for all thirteen years of my K-12 education. Some of these blessings are the close connections that I have developed with students and teachers alike, through the countless conversations and debates that I have had. These connections have given me the drive to play viola and be in multiple choirs, manage and be an athlete in multiple sports, and learn both academically and socially through conversations with others. I have been able to take part in clubs both broad and niche, such as NHS, student government, and swing dancing. Because of these experiences, I have become socially well-rounded and have developed skills like the ability to have true dialogue with others and reflect core values (including patience and humility) that I hope to use for the rest of my life.

Like the Rainbow Fish, it is my goal to take these gifts that I have developed to help others. Gifts are meant to be shared, and I firmly believe that if each individual uses their skills to help not just themselves but others, the entire community will be uplifted and made better. Being kind and helping others provides me with so much joy that I could never find elsewhere; the enjoyable things that I do will never amount to the value that comes with putting others first.

College Scout, LLC- Scholarship “Must Do” Essay Prompt Library

★ TEF Scholarship Prompts (3):

What do you plan to do with your degree or certification? (Length: 150 words)

College at the University of Nebraska Kearney promises a community that finally shares my passion for technology, as I plan to pursue a degree in CS, get involved in student organizations like Cyber Club, and create services for my peers. After college, I plan to work as a software developer at a company where my code is accessible, purposeful, and tangible. I think Valve Corporation embodies this philosophy; through Proton, SteamOS, and Steam Deck, they've proven that a successful company can also be a benevolent service. Such a company is where I aim to work and eventually build.

What honors and/or special recognition have you received? Please include high school and community honors and/or special recognition. Pull from resume. (Length: bullet point list)

Extracurriculars

*High School varsity soccer
High School varsity basketball (Freshman year)
National Honor Society
Sunday School Leader
High School Honors Choir
Colorado All-State Choir
CO Rapids Youth Soccer Club
Volunteer at Medical Center of the Rockies*

Honors and Special Recognition

*Award for Service (2022)
1st team All-State for girls varsity soccer (2023)
2nd team All-State for girls varsity soccer (2024)
1st team All-League for girls varsity soccer (2023)
Player of the match High School varsity soccer (2023)
Player of the match High School varsity soccer (2023)
Player of the match High School varsity soccer (2024)
Most Valuable Player High School varsity soccer (2023)
Defender of the Year High School varsity soccer (2025)
Player of the match for state championship game (2025)
High School varsity soccer captain (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)*

College Scout, LLC- Scholarship “Must Do” Essay Prompt Library

Tell us more about yourself. You should include (Future plans and goals, previous history not mentioned in application, and challenging circumstances during your K-12 time. (Length: 2000 Characters)

Since elementary school, I've felt a strong passion for Computer Science (CS), fascinated by its order, logic, and power of accretive growth. Although I hold a deep reverence for the school that raised me, its classical designation naturally deprived me of a community that shares my passion as authentically as I feel it.

My interest began in Kindergarten where a teacher used an iPad to enter names into a spreadsheet projected on a whiteboard. That wireless, real-time communication sparked my interest in computers. Since Kindergarten, computer science enchanted me as I discovered programming through the internet. Despite having no technology classes, no local mentors, and no STEM community, I carved out time from my demanding academics to teach myself CS through free online services like Scratch and W3Schools.

My determination led to InfiniBot, an open-source project I made that freely extends functionality to Discord, reaching 3.9K communities and over half-a-million users. Starting as a plugin for my friend group who couldn't afford paid features, I spent nearly an entire year overhauling the code before releasing it under a modified GNU General Public License. The project deepened my understanding in prudent code, server hosting, and community building, while enabling me to independently earn PCEP™ and PCAP™ Python certifications without ever taking a formal Python course.

★ General Institutional College Admissions Essays:

Why did you choose _____ college/university? (Length: 300 words)

At CU Boulder, I plan to pursue a degree through the College of Communication, Media, Design, and Information. This will allow me to major in strategic communications with a minor in sports media or journalism. CU Boulder has a beautiful campus, with the amazing backdrop of the state I know and love. Having attended a small, close-knit charter school for 13 years, I want to enjoy a large and diverse community during my college years. Your university promotes many groups I would love to be a part of, including the university's Catholic parish, the football fan community of The Charge, and the CUHC. In addition, the core values that CU holds close to heart: integrity, community, accountability, agility, respect, and service, are all values that reflect the person I aspire to become. Hearing the stories and seeing the alumni pride of family and friends who attended CU Boulder has inspired me. I hope to study communications because I am very social and extroverted, and I enjoy public speaking, setting me apart from my peers. I am

College Scout, LLC- Scholarship “Must Do”

Essay Prompt Library

determined to find a way to carry these traits into a future career. I have talked to professionals in career fields, including hospitality, news reporting, and teaching. Although I have not yet identified my dream job and do not yet have a definite career path, I want to further my education through CU Boulder and better equip myself with the proper tools to communicate well in a way that benefits others.

Why have you chosen your academic major? (Length: 300 words)

I have chosen communication because it is versatile and enjoyable. I love public speaking, and majoring in communications allows me to hone that skill and use it in the future. I previously shadowed a news reporter, and that experience showed me how I can use my skills to help others.

Describe the impact you have made on your community and the impact you hope to make on your community through your future career? (Length: 300 words)

I am excited to serve the CSU community. CSU's mission states, “We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.” In order for societies to flourish, diverse groups must civilly communicate and engage with one another. My goal is to assist different groups achieve further cohesion. I was provided a hands-on opportunity to see the impacts of different communities coming together when I shadowed a Denver7 news reporter. I saw the beauty of people coming together to support a neighbor in crisis, and I saw how the news reporters were able to bring necessary attention to a worthwhile cause. During times of division, social engagement doesn't happen on its own; I want to learn how to cultivate positive change.

By attending CSU, I will be better equipped to serve others by enhancing my personal talents and gaining resources. CSU allows me to start local and serve the community I live in while learning how to serve larger societies as I grow. A specific club that I plan to take part in is the university's Catholic student organization: RamCatholic. Through RamCatholic, I plan to participate in group service projects.