

# Personal Statement and Activity Summary Cover Sheet

Attach bar code label here, if available,  
or write your USC ID number here.

# 2

Name:

Social Security number or USC ID:

Please complete the Essay, Short Answers, Quick Takes and Activity Summary sections. This part of the application offers a chance to contribute your voice to the admission process and enables us to learn more about you. We are looking for insight into you as a person and as a writer; we will evaluate writing style, language usage, organization and content.

- All sections must be typed and double-spaced on paper you provide.
- Please affix one of your personal bar codes to each page. If you do not have a bar code, write your name and USC ID number at the top of each page.

## Essay

Please write an essay of approximately 500–700 words (typically about two double-spaced pages) on one of following topics. Check the box of your selected topic.

- The 18th-century French philosopher Denis Diderot said, “Only passions, great passions, can elevate the soul to great things.” Describe one of your passions and discuss its contribution to your personal growth.
- Thomas Edison failed many times before successfully inventing the modern electric light bulb. He said, “If I find 10,000 ways something won’t work, I haven’t failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward.” Reflect on an accomplishment you achieved in an unlikely way.
- Newton’s First Law of Motion states that an object in motion tends to stay in motion in the same direction unless acted upon by an external force. Tell us about an external influence (a person, an event, etc.) that affected you and how it caused you to change direction.

## Short Answers

**Freshman applicants:** Please answer questions 1 and 2.

**Transfer applicants:** Please answer questions 1 through 3.

**Freshman and Transfer applicants:** Question 4 is optional.

1. Tell us about an activity that is important to you, and why.
2. Describe your academic interests and how you plan to pursue them at USC. (Transfers only: Please be sure to address your first- and second-choice major selections.)
3. Why are you planning to transfer to USC?
4. If there is any information you believe is relevant to our consideration of you as an applicant that is not already contained in your application, feel free to explain on an additional sheet.

## Quick Takes

On a separate sheet, please respond to each of the following in one sentence or less. (A single word may suffice.) These questions have no right or wrong answers.

- Three words that describe you
- Favorite leisure activity
- Favorite food
- Last book you read for pleasure
- Role model
- Best movie of all time
- Favorite musical performer/band/composer
- Favorite quote
- Most prized possession
- Dream job

## Activity Summary

Please describe your activities briefly, limiting the entire summary to one side of a single page. For each activity, use this format: Name of activity; grade(s) you were involved in it; number of hours per week; number of weeks per year; description of the activity; your role(s). (Example: Spanish Club; 9th–12th grade; 2 hours per week; 30 weeks per year; language club dedicated to promoting the understanding of Spanish language and culture; elected treasurer junior year and president senior year.)

1. Activities and organizations in which you have participated, and offices held (athletics, debate, academic decathlon, community service, cultural and religious organizations, etc.)
2. Honors and awards received (list titles), including National Merit Semi-Finalist, National Achievement, Westinghouse, Girls/Boys State, Alpha Gamma Sigma
3. Work experience
4. Summer programs, conferences or special events attended; travel experience
5. Other special background or experiences, or unusual hobbies
6. If there are gaps in your education since high school, please provide a chronological list of your activities since then (work, travel, etc.).
7. Transfers: List your courses in progress, indicating fall, winter, or spring courses separately. Include unit values.



**Honors** Briefly list any academic distinctions or honors you have received since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or international equivalent (e.g. National Merit, Cum Laude Society).

| Grade level or post-graduate (PG) |                       |                       |                       |                       | Honor | Level of Recognition  |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 9                                 | 10                    | 11                    | 12                    | PG                    |       | School                | State/<br>Regional    | National              | Inter-<br>national    |
| <input type="radio"/>             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____ | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
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## ACTIVITIES

**Extracurricular** Please list your **principal** extracurricular, community, volunteer and family activities and hobbies **in the order of their interest to you**. Include specific events and/or major accomplishments such as musical instrument played, varsity letters earned, etc. **To allow us to focus on the highlights of your activities, please complete this section even if you plan to attach a résumé.**

| Grade level or post-graduate (PG) |                       |                       |                       |                       | Approximate time spent |                | When did you participate in the activity? |                       | Positions held, honors won, or letters earned | If applicable, do you plan to participate in college? |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| 9                                 | 10                    | 11                    | 12                    | PG                    | Hours per week         | Weeks per year | School year                               | Summer                |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/>             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                  | _____          | <input type="radio"/>                     | <input type="radio"/> | _____   | <input type="radio"/>                                 |
| Activity _____                    |                       |                       |                       |                       |                        |                |   |                       |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/>             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                  | _____          | <input type="radio"/>                     | <input type="radio"/> | _____   | <input type="radio"/>                                 |
| Activity _____                    |                       |                       |                       |                       |                        |                |   |                       |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/>             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                  | _____          | <input type="radio"/>                     | <input type="radio"/> | _____   | <input type="radio"/>                                 |
| Activity _____                    |                       |                       |                       |                       |                        |                |   |                       |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/>             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                  | _____          | <input type="radio"/>                     | <input type="radio"/> | _____   | <input type="radio"/>                                 |
| Activity _____                    |                       |                       |                       |                       |                        |                |   |                       |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/>             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                  | _____          | <input type="radio"/>                     | <input type="radio"/> | _____   | <input type="radio"/>                                 |
| Activity _____                    |                       |                       |                       |                       |                        |                |   |                       |   |   |
| <input type="radio"/>             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                  | _____          | <input type="radio"/>                     | <input type="radio"/> | _____   | <input type="radio"/>                                 |
| Activity _____                    |                       |                       |                       |                       |                        |                |   |                       |   |   |

**Work Experience** Please list **paid** jobs you have held during the past three years (including summer employment).

| Specific nature of work | Employer | School year           | Summer                | Approximate dates (mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy) | Hours per week |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| _____                   | _____    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                                 | _____          |
| _____                   | _____    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                                 | _____          |
| _____                   | _____    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                                 | _____          |
| _____                   | _____    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | _____                                 | _____          |