10 Sample Essay Questions

As you start to think about how you should approach your college essay, it's good to have an idea of what types of essay questions colleges ask. Here are 10 recent examples:

1. **Middlebury College:** Middlebury values a sense of place and community in all forms. Please tell us about where you have grown up. How has it influenced you and your vision about the kind of college community you would like to join next year?
2. **University of Virginia:** Is there something you secretly like but pretend not to, or vice versa?
3. **Morehouse College:** What person, place, or event has had the greatest influence on your life...and what influence do you expect Morehouse College to have on your life?
4. **Southern Methodist University:** What is your definition of diversity, and what role has it played in your own learning and development?
5. **Colgate University:** What would the title of your autobiography be and why?
6. **University of Michigan:** Describe a setback that you have faced. How did you resolve it? How did the outcome affect you? If something similar happened in the future, how would you react?
7. **New York University:** Select a creative work—a novel, film, musical piece, painting, or other work of art—that has influenced the way you view the world, or the way you view yourself. What impact has the work had on you?
8. **Northwestern University:** An old expression says, "What is right is not always popular, and what is popular is not always right." Give an example of a time when you made a choice that was not popular but you felt was right. Why did you make this choice? What happened as a result?
9. **Pomona College:** Reinvent your high school. What is essential? What would you change?
10. **Florida State University:** How has your family history, culture, or environment influenced who you are?

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