

## What NOT to do on the UC Personal Insight Questions (UC Application Essay)

Hey everyone happy Saturday and Haley here with application season around the corner I wanted to make a video for you all about what not to do on your personal insight question essays for your UC application so there are a few common mistakes that I see pretty often that I want to make you aware of so that you don't run into doing these things yourselves also just some other things that you want to be aware of as you're writing your essays that way you can give yourself the best possible chance write the best possible [uc essay](#) and hopefully come off as a competitive enough applicant that you are accepted into the University of your choice of course there's no guarantee but the only way to know is to try by applying am i right and this is in no particular order so first thing that I see pretty common is over explaining things so a lot of people when it comes to writing these essays maybe they don't exactly know how to write them or what tone to take and whatnot but the number one thing that I would discourage you from is over-explaining so you know for example you don't need to explain what your major is if you are a psychology major you don't need to explain what psychology is the person reading your essay knows what psychology is this is just a waste of your 350 word count and rather than you know telling the person something that they don't know about you you're telling them something that is fairly obvious which is just a waste of everyone's time for ya that's just one example another thing that I see quite often is over explaining like what classes you took especially with the required question for transfer students which is like explain what you've done to prepare for your major you of course can make mention of the classes you've taken but your essay should literally not be I've taken XYZ class in this class I learned this in this class I learned that like they know on a pretty fundamental what you level what you've learned in your classes that's what your transcript is for and these are general education classes so pretty much every class is going to be teaching the same thing so don't waste your workout on that on the opposite end of the spectrum something that I see pretty often as well is under explaining so this is some when I see pretty often when people are talking about themselves so if you're explaining something that's pretty personal to you you know something that only you would know about yourself sometimes you know people just like right as if the person who is reading this essay will understand what they mean by something and that's not the case remember that the person reading this essay has no idea who you are they don't know you so you know you can't just say like you know I don't know like if you have a silly nickname for someone in your family like my nephew calls me T well only my family knows who T is obviously that's you know I'm his aunt that's what he calls me but you know no one else would understand what T is or who T is so don't do that don't under X plane you know when it comes to personal things like that remember that you know speak as if you're speaking to someone you've never met before because that's the case you've never met this person before number three another big thing I see is acronyms that haven't been spelled out things that are pretty obvious like you see or I don't know SAT IRS you don't need to worry about filling out those things but for example if you're talking about your community college and you just say wvc they're not gonna know what wvc is they don't know that's West Valley College you need to type out West Valley College at least the first time that you make mention of it and then you can put it the acronym in parenthesis next to the spelled out version of the word but you know just ambiguity is gonna be your enemy here make sure that you are as clear as you possibly can be because once again this person doesn't know you they don't have a chance to ask you for clarification so if you leave them guessing that's a really bad thing they might guess

incorrectly okay so the fourth thing that I want to talk about is honestly I think this thing that I see the most across all essays that I've read you guys know that I've done editing services in the past and this is something that I think every single person that I've read their essays has done and I'm guilty of the same offense don't worry you're not alone but the thing that you want to avoid is generalizations and sweeping statements so it's really just it's a waste of your word count because it really does nothing to help the reader understand who you are and does nothing to advance your essay it doesn't tell them anything value or of importance what I mean by this is for example if you're answering the leadership prompt and the leadership prompt is something like give us an example of your leadership and how you contributed to group efforts over time or something like that and you start off the essay by saying leadership is a trait that every person in a position of power must possess okay like that that does nothing for you it does nothing for the reader it does nothing for the essay just forget about it it's a waste of your time it's a waste of your space just leave that stuff out get down to the nitty gritty details once again you only have 350 words so you want to make sure that you are conveying what's really important about yourself it is a personal insight question not a general leadership question you know what I mean like it's it's supposed to be something that matters to you another one that I commonly see when I read the creativity prompt is people say like creativity is central to I don't know invention or something they'll just try to be like fake deep and it just doesn't come across well it doesn't read well and it just makes you seem like you didn't know what else to say so you just said that the main takeaway from that is if it doesn't provide insight about who you are then just don't bother okay another really big thing that I see across essays is talking about the same topic in multiple essays do not do this this is a really big no-no for these essays won because you only have four words you only you only have four essays you only have 350 words per essay to explain you are and to provide context to your application so if you spend more than one essay talking about the same topic you're gonna come off as one-dimensional you're gonna come off like you don't know how to respond to the prompt you're gonna come off like you just aren't someone who is able to discuss multiple things at an intellectual level and you know I think a lot of people will read the prompts and be like oh okay well my major is this so I need to talk about this but that's not the case because they're trying to get to know you as a person and if you can only talk about one thing you know at a considerable amount of detail like what does that really say about you does that say that you're well versed does that say that you're well rounded does that say that you're worldly no it's really disadvantage if you're only able to discuss one thing so please remember that you want to make yourself seem like a really you know rounded diverse person who has experience in a lot of areas and that you can contribute to the university that you are intending to transfer to on many levels the last thing I want to say is there is one required prompt and then there are seven other prompts out of those seven you need to pick three to respond to and if you pick one and you're just having a really difficult time you don't know what to say you can't really identify it please move on to a different prompt there's a reason that there are seven options for you to choose from if you feel like you don't identify with something move on to something better there are certain prompts that I think are easier than others for example I think the last prompt which is like beyond what you've already shared why are you a competitive applicant to UC I think that's a really difficult prompt I actually think it's a really bad prompt personally it's just too vague and people don't know how to respond to it as a result people will often just kind of come across really desperate and almost beg to get into the university that's not

a good look that's usually one response that I see other times people will provide a summary of the things that they've already talked about or a summary of things that they discussed in their application you know their extracurriculars or their classes or whatnot that's really not the intention of that essay you know the whole motivation behind that essay is to kind of share anything that you feel is relevant and really central to understanding you as a person do you haven't had a chance to share already that you haven't you know you don't feel like it fits into any of the other prompts so that is what you should do with that essay I personally like to stay away from that prompt I think it's not a very well-thought-out prompt it's something that people don't really know how to respond to as I've already said so I personally would avoid would advise you to avoid it but it's your personal choice I'm not going to tell you what to do but if you're already struggling it's probably not the one that you want to go with but anyway the main point is just right from the heart right what feels comfortable and don't you know choose things that you don't feel like you can relate to it will only hurt you in the end you need to be able to really thoroughly explain who you are in 350 words so make sure you're choosing prompts that you feel you can do that with all right everyone I have a lot of other videos that are similar to this on my channel I will link the playlist with those videos right here so make sure you check that out if you already have it if you're new to my channel please consider subscribing I am a current UCLA transfer student and I am uploading videos every week about community college transferring and UCLA life so as I said please consider subscribing if you haven't already and if you are one of my subscribers I will see you next Saturday at 3 p.m. thank you so much bye