

# 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 the following topics. Check the box of your selected topic.

- USC's speaker series "What Matters to Me and Why" asks faculty and staff to reflect on their values, beliefs, and motivations. Presenters talk about choices they have made, difficulties encountered, and commitments solidified. Write an essay about an event or experience that helped you learn what is important to you and why it is important.
- "Visions and Voices" is a university-wide arts and humanities initiative that seeks to transform students' perspectives through presentations and performances by top artists, writers, and scholars. Tell us about a creative project, performance or other work of yours and how it reflects your vision or voice.
- 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 a challenge you overcame through persistence.

## 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. Please feel free to talk about an activity other than one you may have discussed in your essay.
2. Describe your academic interests and how you plan to pursue them at USC. Please feel free to address your first- and second-choice major selections.
3. Why are you planning to transfer to USC?
4. Optional: Any information you believe is relevant to our consideration of you as an applicant, but not already discussed or explained in your application.

## 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 food
- Favorite fictional character
- Greatest invention of all time
- What do you like to do for fun?
- Role Model
- Favorite book
- Best movie of all time
- Favorite musical performer/band, or composer
- Dream job

## Activity Summary

Please describe your activities briefly, including any awards you might have received, 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. Work experience.
3. Summer programs, conferences or special events attended.
4. Other special background or experiences, or unusual hobbies.
5. If there are gaps in your education since high school, please provide a chronological list of your activities since then (work, travel, etc.).
6. Transfers: List your courses in progress, indicating fall, winter, or spring courses separately. Include unit values.

