



2014 C.A.S.H. Program Essay Writing Contest

Instructions: Please write an essay that is between 500 – 1,000 words on one of the following topics. Your essay should be in 12 point font and double spaced. Also, you must include your name and the essay question at the top of the first page. This will not count against your word count.

The college application essay is one way a college gets to know more about a potential student on a personal level. Apart from academics and test scores, this is the one part of the application where a student's personal statement allows them to distinguish themselves from other applicants. It will demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself.

Review the *Writing College Essays* materials posted on the program's website at www.nyblackmba.org/cashprogram.php. Some of these documents were reviewed during the Writing College Essays session on Friday, January 31, 2014 and/or presented by the guest speaker, Dr. Edward Price. Also consult your mentors and your teachers as you consider your essay.

DEADLINE: **June 6, 2014** (You MUST submit your essay electronically to your mentors or by emailing cash@nyblackmba.org). **NO HARDCOPIES ALLOWED WITHOUT FIRST EMAILING.**

1. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you. (from the Common Application)
2. Choose an issue of importance to you—the issue could be personal, school related, local, political or international in scope—write an essay in which you explain the significance of that issue to yourself, your family, your community, or your generation. (from University of Texas)
3. Write a concise narrative in which you describe a meaningful event, experience or accomplishment in your life and how it will affect your college experience or your contribution to the campus community. You may want to reflect on your ideas about student responsibility, academic integrity, campus citizenship or a call to service. (from University of Florida)
4. Ben Franklin once said, "All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move." Which are you? (from University of Pennsylvania)
5. Describe a significant experience from the past two years which required you to interact with someone outside of your own social or cultural group (ethnic, religious, geographic, socioeconomic, etc.). How did this impact you? What did you learn and what surprised you? (from Michigan State University)

Winners: Essays will be graded by C.A.S.H. Program mentors and alumni and the Top 3 winners will be announced during the graduation ceremony in June. Awards will be announced at that time.