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The University of Chicago Application Essay

October 28, 2019

Prompt 1: How does The University of Chicago, as you know it now, satisfy your desire for a particular kind of learning, community, and future? Please address with some specificity your own wishes and how they relate to UChicago.

As a person who is keen about psychology, I see a great prospect in becoming a University of Chicago student. First, your undergraduate college is a good place to learn how to think outside the box. High school teaches us many useful basics in most subjects, but we often need to question conventional facts. I constantly explore useful tips for alternative thinking in everyday situations, when chatting with friends or interacting with my family. Still, it will be essential for me to communicate with advanced faculty members to develop better critical thinking patterns and advanced analytical skills.

My ambition is not only to learn modern psychological science but also to enrich it with new research. I see myself as a future scholar. So, I am prepared to work really hard in this direction. I believe UChicago is a great place to expand my own knowledge and contribute to this science. As psychology is one of the most popular majors there, I expect to work closely with experienced academics who will help me shape my own identity as a psychologist and a scholar.

Besides hard work, I also expect to enjoy living on the UChicago campus. I am especially fond of arts, exhibitions, and social meetings. Meeting new friends and people who share my interests is always fascinating. To me, The University of Chicago looks is a perfect place to combine my academic ambitions with my favorite extracurricular activities.

Prompt 2: Cats have nine lives, Pac-Man has 3 lives, and radioactive isotopes have half-lives. How many lives does something else—conceptual or actual—have, and why?

I am sure each of us, at one time or another, has wanted to live multiple lives. Through this, we would become smarter and wiser. With every life, we would enjoy our experiences more and get much happier than we are now. Someone will say it is impossible for a person to live more than one life. But I believe each of us can have much more than the current life he or she does not enjoy.

From the point of view of psychic mediums, humans as spiritual beings have many lives. You may believe in reincarnation, but you cannot check whether this theory is true by yourself. To me, there is another approach to the many-lives issue. A much simpler one that you can try whenever you want. Think about people as social beings who pass through different stages of development as they grow old. I believe we have countless lives in this respect.

For instance, take a child that goes to school for the first time. He or she has already had different lives as a crying baby, a walking toddler, and as a curious kindergarten child. This personality will be quite different as the child goes to middle school or becomes a teenager. These are just a few life-stages each of us passes on our way to adulthood, and we all know that

personality transforms fast during childhood. Although, it is not all about developmental psychology.

I believe every person has many lives at each stage of development. As you change your attitude or way of thinking, you already start living a new life. It can turn into a better life, a more inspiring reality, even when nothing else around has changed. Think about how often we seek to become a different person than we are now. Perhaps, such transformations happen much more frequently than we notice.

To me, it looks like everyone can live as many lives as he or she wants. Or even more. Sometimes, obstacles can push us into a reality we do not like. And, we can choose to live this way and be unhappy. Or, we can summon our strength and make an effort to start a new life. We can do it any time we want.



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