

UC PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS

Mastering PIQs

Presented by Mr. Cervantes & Dr. Torres

AGENDA

What should you expect from this presentation?

- PIQ Basics
- Aim of the PIQ's
- General writing tips along the way...

PIQ BASICS

8 QUESTIONS → PICK 4

350 WORDS (MAX) PER RESPONSE -Master Tip: GOOGLE DOC-

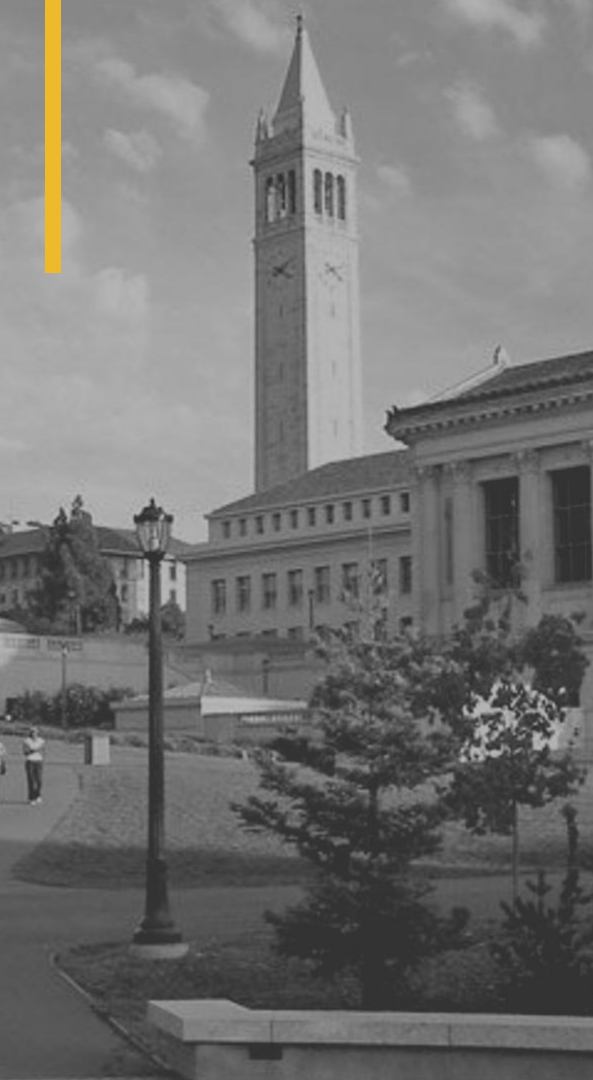
ALL QUESTIONS HAVE EQUAL VALUE

There is no advantage to answering one question over another. There is no significance to the way these questions are ordered.

VIEW YOUR PIQ'S AS YOUR PERSONAL INTERVIEW ON
PAPER

Read your PIQs out loud. They should sound like answers to a job interview question.





DO I HAVE TO DO PIQ'S?

UC APPLICANTS

Only students who are planning to apply to UC schools (UCSB, UCR, UCM, etc.) need to complete Personal Insight Questions

CSU APPLICANTS

Cal State schools (CSULA, CSULB, etc.) do not have a required writing portion of the application. If you are applying to EOP, you will have to do some writing.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Most private schools will require writing in the form of a personal statement. Personal statements require you to use different writing techniques (can be more narrative writing).

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Community Colleges don't require writing supplements unless you are applying to a specialized program.

PIQ Questions

•LEADERSHIP

Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time

•CREATIVE SIDE

Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

•TALENT

What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

•EDU. BARRIER

Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

PIQ Questions

•CHALLENGE

Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

•SUBJECT

Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

•COMMUNITY

What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

•CANDIDATE

Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

A grayscale photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a young man and woman are walking on a grassy path. The man is wearing a dark t-shirt with 'UCR' on it and a baseball cap. The woman is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and carrying a book. In the background, there is a large 'UCR' sign with a star, and a tall clock tower is visible in the distance under a cloudy sky.

AIM OF PIQS

GAIN **CLARITY**

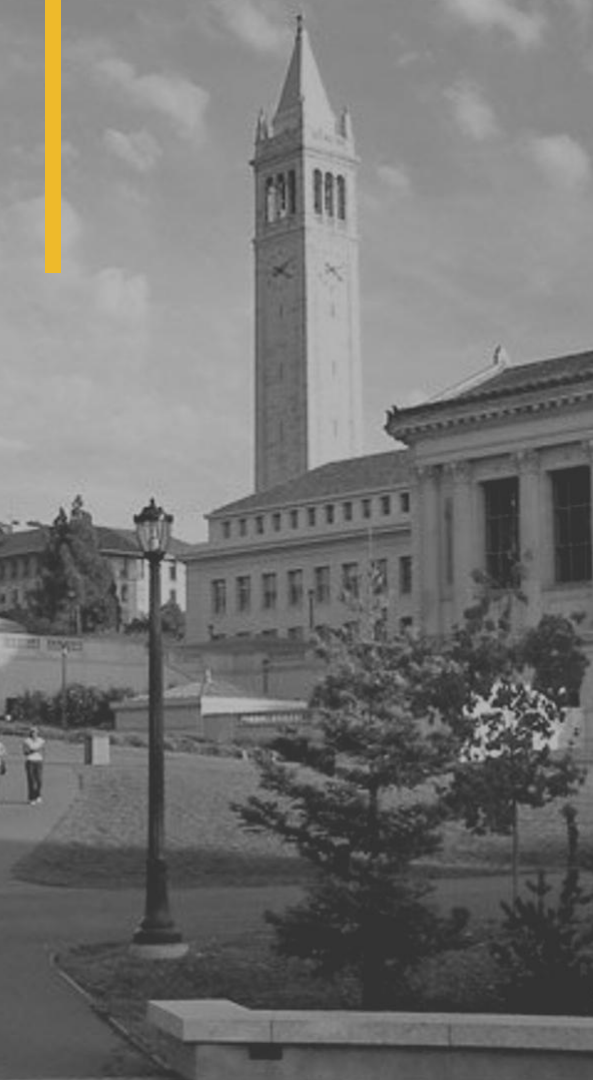
Allow readers to gain a richer perspective of your life, experiences, and/or accomplishments

GIVE **CONTEXT**

Give you an opportunity to share details on your home, school, or community

PROVIDE **DEPTH**

PIQs provide more details for readers! Give them more information on your academics or extracurricular activities



3 KEY PARTS TO ANSWER

What is the overall answer to the question?

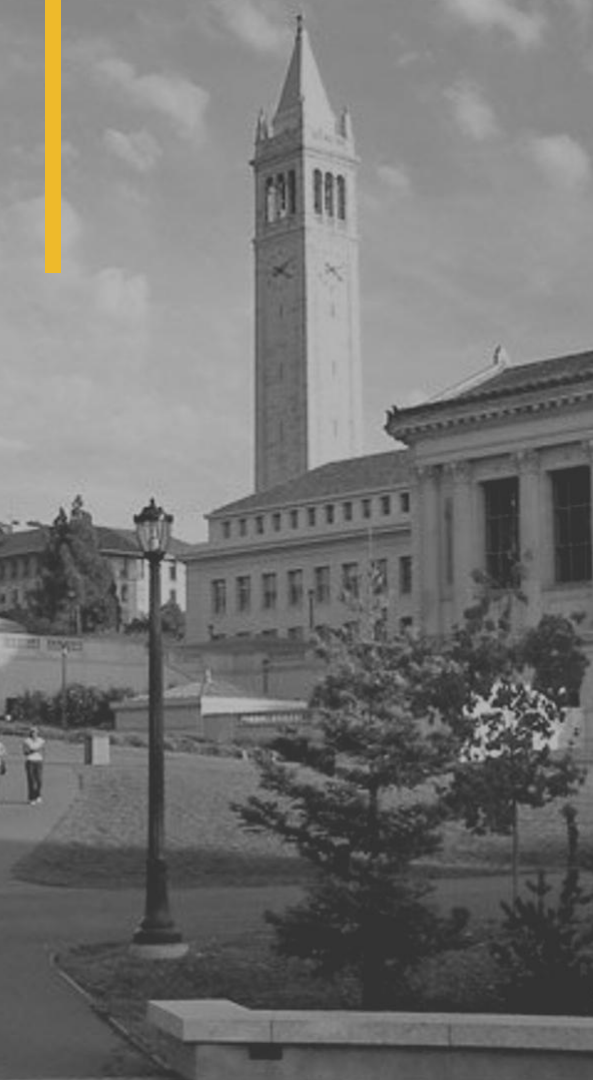
In the beginning of your PIQ you want to answer the question that is being asked directly but briefly. (2-3 sentences)

What did you learn from this? How did this impact you?

This is where the bulk of your PIQ will be, in this section you want to express to the reader what it is you either learned from this OR how it impacted you overall. (4-5 sentences)

How will this help/guide you in the future?

At the end of your PIQ you want to express to the readers how what you have shared so far will help or guide you in the future. (3-4 sentences)



Example PIQ Response

PIQ Question:

Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.



AN EXAMPLE...

ANSWERING THE QUESTION

During my Junior and Senior year I have had the opportunity to take part in a program at my school called Link Crew, while in this program I have been responsible in assisting newly enrolled Freshman in their transition from middle to high school. I was in charge of leading a group of Freshman through orientation by having them take part in various activities with their fellow classmates.

LEARN/IMPACT

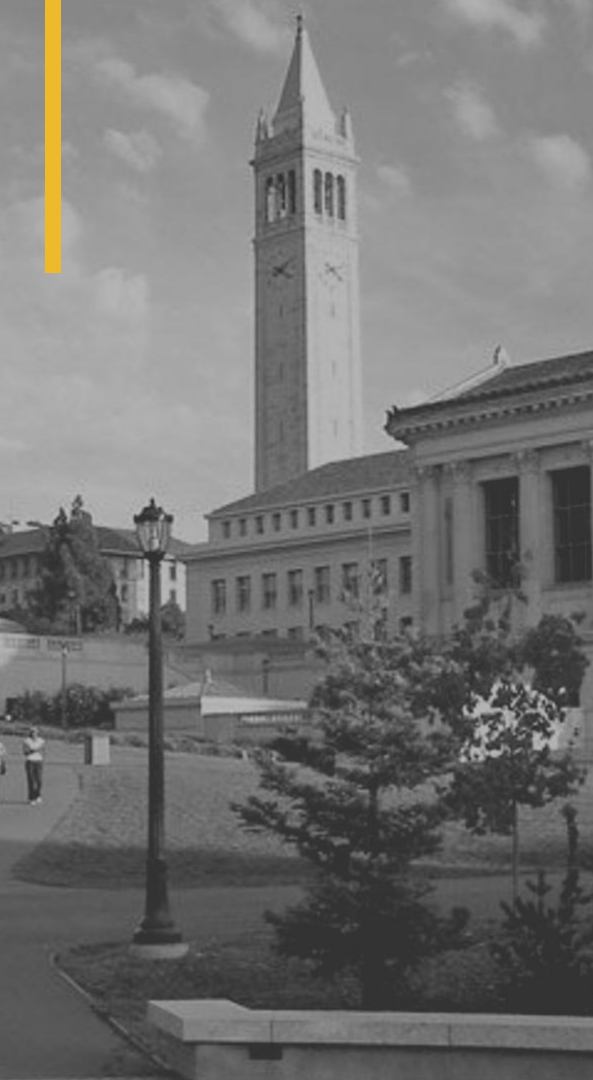
By taking part in this program it has helped me realize that I enjoy helping people feel accepted and comfortable, and has taught me how to use my communication skills in a meaningful and impactful way. Through this experience I have learned that in the future I would like to continue to work in the education setting and help students feel welcomed and confident in themselves. This has taught me the various ways that a leader can either be beneficial for the group as a whole or could harm the group, and I have been able to continue to build upon my skills overall.....

AN EXAMPLE...

HELP/GUIDE

Overall I believe that this experience will help me in the future because by gaining and building more upon my leadership skills, it will allow me to take on more leaderships roles in the future. My hopes are that I will be able to take on similar roles while in college that will continue to allow me to help fellow classmates and my college campus overall. I think that by allowing myself to build upon my own leadership skills it will allow me to continue to grow both professionally and academically.....





PIQ Response Tips

PIQ Question:

Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement.

Tips:

- Identities:
 - Examples of Identities
 - Women of Color in the Science Field
 - Son/Daughter of a migrant worker
 - Eldest of 4
 - First Generation English Speaker
 - First Generation High School/College Student



PIQ Response Tips

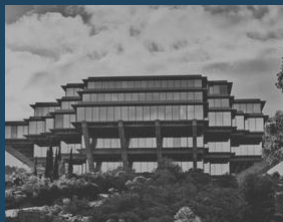
PIQ Question:

Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.

Tips: [Informal Leadership](#) vs. Formal Leadership

- Informal:
 - Foster Care/ Group Home and being independent
 - Translating for mom and dad at home
- Formal:
 - ASB Club Treasure
 - Colt Link Crew
 - Volleyball

QUICK TIPS



KEEP IT FOCUSED ON YOU

Use 'I' and 'my' statements

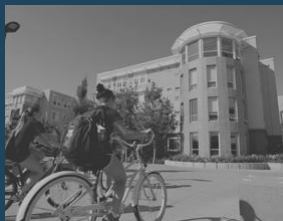
Focus on yourself, what you learned, how you grew, etc. Be specific about the role you play and what your responsibilities are.



BE YOURSELF

Do not write what you think UCs want to hear. Just tell us about yourself.

UCs want to admit people that they believe in. Show them who you *really* are.



DON'T BE CAMPUS SPECIFIC

All campuses receive the same copy of your responses.

If you are applying to 4 UCs, don't say things like "UCLA is my dream school"

Things to Avoid

•ACRONYMS

If you're talking about clubs, schools, etc., make it easier for readers and spell it out!

PODER → Pursuing Our Dreams through Education and Responsibility

•CREATIVE WRITING

Don't write poems or haikus. Answer the questions as if you were asked this question in a job interview.

•STORY TELLING

You don't need to spend time setting the scene or telling a long winded story. Be concise and stick to what answers the question

•NAME DROPPING

If you know someone who works at the school or admire a specific professor, leave that out of your PIQs.

Things to Avoid

•TITLES

You don't need to restate the prompt or create a title for your responses.

•JOKES OR SARCASM

Keep it professional!
Do not use slang, abbreviations, etc.

•FLOWERY LANGUAGE

Keep your writing clear and concise. Use your regular vocabulary, SAT words are not necessary.
[Elevate]

•ESSAY STRUCTURE

Again, think of these as interview questions. You are not evaluated on essay structure or conventions

Keep in Mind



BE YOURSELF

UC readers actually do want to know about you, your story, and your life. Be genuine, vulnerable, and honest on your application.



WRITE MULTIPLE DRAFTS

We recommend drafting your questions on a Word or Google doc. Ask for feedback from multiple people to catch areas of improvement.



BRAG A LITTLE

Don't downplay your accomplishments, involvements, or intellect. Focus on yourself and your unique perspective.



SENSITIVE TOPICS

Sometimes less can be more, however you should not be discouraged from sharing this information. At the end of the day this is you!

Reminders

1

UC APP IS OPEN

Make your account and begin working on your PIQs if you haven't already. Start early and come in to update us on your progress!

2

CSU APP OPENS 10/1

Start your CSU application in October! Be aware of impact & the importance of CSULA. Let Adviser check your application before submitting.

3

FAFSA AND CADA OPEN

10/1

You can apply for financial aid beginning on October 1st! Gather all the necessary information and get your \$\$\$ *Everyone will complete a FinAid application.*

Complete the Senior Survey if you would like to meet with Mr. Cervantes

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

COVINA HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING & THE SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION FOR ESL STUDENTS PRESENT

Personal Statement Combo Evening

PERSONAL STATEMENT EXPERT WORKSHOP



PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP

UC Berkeley will give COVINA HS seniors a special workshop to guide them through what the UCs are looking for.

Join us for a night filled with tricks and tips from an actual UC Berkeley expert. Let's get your work polished and ready!

Get one-on-one help with your Personal Statement for College

Current students and Graduate students from UC Berkeley, UCLA & UCLA Medical School, Mount St. Marys, USC, UCI, Loyola Marymount, Cal State Long Beach, Northridge, Harvard, Stanford, Parsons School of Design & the UC Berkeley Chicano Latino Alumni Association will help you strengthen your essay.

10.26.2022

5:00-6:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

**REGISTER NOW, SPOTS
ARE LIMITED!**



10.26.2022

6:00-8:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

RVSP ASAP

Covina High Counseling
presents

UC/CSU Application Support

Thursday, October 27th
&
Friday, November 4th

During Lunch
in the Library



QUESTIONS?

Please Reach out to your Counselor, or out check to see if there are any more workshops that may be helpful!



YOU GOT THIS!

GET STARTED EARLY

CHECK OUT HOW TO CONTACT US ON OUR WEBSITE. SUBMIT OUR
SURVEY SO WE CAN REACH OUT TO YOU. WE CAN DISCUSS AND EDIT
YOUR PIQS OR OTHER WRITING SUPPLEMENTS.