

## USC Prompt

Please write an essay as part of your application. We will look at your writing style, language usage and organization. You may submit a traditional personal essay or use the approach below. Do not simply restate information included in your résumé, as described below.

- Use only one side of a single page to complete your essay.
- Write or type it on your own piece of paper; we haven't provided one in this booklet.
- Include your name and Social Security number at the top of your essay page.
- Please affix one of your personal bar codes to the essay.

**All applicants:** [double click on color and icons to see my comments](#)

Tell us a story about yourself that will help us to know you better. Illustrate one or more themes, events or individuals that have helped shape you. Be clear and forceful.

## Personal Statement

What shaped me as a person?

This past summer, I took part in an event called Relay for Life with the Interact club at my High School. This was a twenty-four hour event in support of both finding a cure to cancer and aiding those who were suffering from the disease. ~~At this event,~~ the idea was for twenty-four hours to have at least one person from each club walking at all times. As Vice President of Interact, I take it as my responsibility to attend every event possible. Shamefully, I was dreading the twenty-four hours I was going to be spending at the track where the relay was to take place. I had had a rough week prior to that Saturday morning, wherein I got little sleep and had much homework, and wished to get some rest. The club president and I decided that all participants should share in half hour shifts with two people going at once. Throughout the day I got to meet people who had cancer or whose lives had been affected by family members or close friends having cancer. After talking to these people and realizing that many will eventually pass away from this disease, I realized how lucky I was. Naturally, being the leader required me to take up empty slots in our schedule. In the end I believe that I walked about ten miles. At Midnight, we were told to gather around a stage. After a while, speakers began to tell us about how much had been raised for the Cause. They then asked us if we had cancer, or knew someone who had cancer, or had a relative who had cancer. They handed out candles to all those who raised their hands. By the end of their questioning, nearly everyone had a candle. They then asked us to raise them in the air and have a moment of silence. That moment was one of the more moving and poignant of my life. ~~The entire event turned out to be rather enlightening.~~ I realized that I really don't have too many significant problems, compared to those suffering from life-threatening diseases. This event helped me to learn to carry a certain perspective about my life. From that day forward, I have tried to put myself in other people's shoes and tried not to focus on my problems so much. This has helped me to become a better person and has generally changed my outlook on things. I am now always trying to help people out with whatever they need and doing my best to consider other people before committing to any course of action. That day helped to change my life in many important and basic ways. Though it occurred relatively late in my growth period, it has already helped to shape (perhaps "reshape") me as a person. Before, I had trouble identifying with the problems and troubles of others; afterwards, I had great empathy for most people. I now realize what it is to struggle with a real problem, like cancer, and all of my so-called "troubles", like school-work and my social-life, pale in comparison.

-Questions

-How is the length?

-Topic?

-Content?

-How can it be improved?

-I will send you the other personal statement tomorrow. Thank you.