



Continuing Application Essay Question Example

How To Answer Essay Questions Or Prompts

We at the Caleb Scholars Program want to make sure that you are supported during this reapplication process. Therefore, we are presenting some information about essay questions/prompts in general to help guide you and are providing an example essay for our continuing application's essay question.

In responding to essay questions/prompts, it is always important to understand and note what a question is asking directly and indirectly. This is true in our scholarship's application materials as well as in other writing prompts you may encounter, such as job and scholarship applications and essay questions on exams.

Here are some tips that will help you effectively answer essay questions/prompts:

- Always read questions/prompts carefully and underline (circle, highlight, etc.) what specifically is being asked. Oftentimes, essay questions have multiple components.
- Think about what the "big picture" understanding that your essay is supposed to convey. Consider the purpose of the organization, job, or class, and what they may be trying to get at with their questions.
 - For example, Caleb Scholars Program is specifically interested in supporting students who will advocate for and help marine conservation issues in their chosen profession. Essays should answer the prompt *and* should give the Caleb Scholars Steering Committee a sense of how you in your chosen profession will help with conservation efforts.
- Make sure that all components you've identified (specific questions in prompts and "big picture") are covered in your essay.
- Use language directly from the prompt to help set up your answer and to help situate your readers.
- Use specific examples to help support and contextualize your answers.
- Make sure to proofread your essay. If you have time, wait a few hours (or longer) after you've "completed" your essay and then re-read it to catch errors or places where your sentences or organization may be confusing. If you are able, read your essay aloud to catch awkward places in your writing.
- It is important that you respect word limits if they are given and follow all other instructions.

Example Essay For Caleb Scholars Program Continuing Application Essay Prompt

In this example essay, highlighting and underlining are used to demonstrate where the specific components of the prompt are answered. The use of highlighting indicates where in the essays each part of the prompt (highlighted in a coordinating color) are answered. The use of underlining signals where the “big picture” *unasked* question—how will your education benefit marine conservation efforts—is answered. Do not include highlighting or underlining in your essays.

Continuing Application Essay Question

Please write an essay (500 word maximum) in which you **reflect on your academic progress** and **how your progress is shaping your future plans** as a Caleb Scholar. Attach your essay to your signed application.

Example Essay (308 words):

This semester made progress on my degree and noticed a lot of personal growth as a scholar. I took 12-credits that directly related to my degree in rural development and successfully completed all of them. One class that I worked hard in and that really helped me understand how marine conservation and my career goal to work in the cargo industry are intertwined was my Rural Economics course. For example, in this class we learned about special considerations that are related to rural economies, especially how cultural practice is actually an economic practice in rural Alaskan communities. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are part of rural Alaskan economic health even though they are not directly related to the exchange of currency. Many rural Alaska Natives rely on subsistence to feed their families and even their communities, especially in whaling communities where one whale will feed many families in the community and other communities. Because subsistence is such an important part of the local economy, conservation is also important to the local economy. If the marine environment is negatively impacted by the marine cargo industry, then it will affect both the cargo business itself and the local community’s economic, physical, and cultural well-being—which further hurts the cargo industry. Therefore, marine conservation is an important component to the cargo industry.

Though it is not part of my degree coursework, **my progress in understanding the relationship between the cargo industry and marine conservation has inspired me** to take an environmental studies class as an elective next semester. I want to use this class to think about community-specific environmentally sustainable alternatives to “normal” business practices of the cargo industry. I hope to also get an internship at a local shipping business this summer during the

peak barge season and learn more about what types of constraints exist to doing marine conservation work.



An academic program of Kawerak, Inc.
with major financial support from the
Oak Foundation.

