

OFFBEAT QUESTIONS TO JOG YOUR MEMORY AND IMAGINATION...

From Peterson's Practically Painless Guide: Writing a Winning College Application Essay

1. Recall a snatch of conversation you overheard while standing in line, waiting for a movie to start, or riding a bus. Why did it catch your interest?
2. Did you ever get something odd in the mail?
3. Which bones have you broken? How?
4. Which childhood possession do you still own?
5. What do you remember about the first person who ever gave you a valentine?
6. Have you ever told a lie you wish you could untell?
7. Have you ever received praise from an unexpected source?
8. Have you ever been someone's hero?
9. If you had to start collecting something, what would you collect?
10. Do you have a hiding place?
11. Have you ever had an idea for an invention?
12. Which section of the newspaper do you always read first?
13. When you and your classmates are reminiscing at your ten-year reunion, which one of your escapades or accomplishments do you think you will be remembered for?
14. Name one thing you were taught in high school that you do not believe?
15. Is your best friend in ninth grade still your best friend?
16. Have you ever traveled to a place you want never to visit again?
17. Have you ever played it safe and regretted it?

18. Have you ever taken a chance and regretted it?
19. Have you done something recently that you laugh about every time you think of it?
20. Has someone ever turned to you for help because you have a particular talent, skill, or kind of knowledge?
21. Have you ever pulled a practical joke? A successful scam?
22. What unusual feature would you include in the design of your ideal house?
23. What is the worst time you ever had at an event where a good time was the point?
24. What is the most embarrassing thing you have ever done?
25. What is the dullerest thing you have ever done?
26. What is the best advice you have ever received? The worst?
27. How did you learn to ride a bike, or ice skate, or drive a car?
28. After your last argument, what did you wish you had said?
29. Do you consider yourself an optimist? How does your optimism reveal itself? How would another person recognize it?
30. Have you ever experienced an irrepressible urge to laugh in a formal circumstance or during a solemn event?
31. Have you ever taught someone how to do something?
32. What three words would a friend use to describe you? Would your parents or teachers use the same words? Would you?
33. How do you respond when you stake yourself on something-for instance, an athletic contest or a school election-and lose?
34. Which photograph in your family's album means the most to you?
35. If you could arrange to be reincarnated, what would you be?