

In the Know: Question Framing Guide

Anyone can ask a question. Anyone can give an answer. Most of the time, the quality of the question asked is related to the quality of the answer given. Basically, if you ask good questions, you'll get good answers. Great questions generally follow three basic rules. They're clear, concise, and specific.

CLEAR	
Clear questions explain why you are interested in gaining the information. Here are some examples:	
Unclear	Clear
"How big is the university?"	"I will rely on my bicycle as my main form of transportation. Will the campus size make it difficult for me to get from class to class on time?"

CONCISE	
If you're asking ten questions, you'll need to keep it short. Concise questions ask for information directly, in as few words as possible. Here's an example of how a wordy question is different from a concise one.	
Wordy	Concise
"Once I went to summer camp, and I had to share a bathroom with all of the girls there. It was gross, and I didn't like it. I hope that's not how it is in college. So is it?"	"Do the dorms have community, suite, or private bathrooms?"

SPECIFIC	
Specific questions communicate exactly the type or amount of information you're seeking by asking the question.	
General	Specific
"What after-school stuff is there to do?"	"I enjoy being outdoors. Could you name two or three extracurricular activities I should check out?"

In the next section, you'll develop ten questions to ask two different college admissions counselors. If you get stuck, you can reference the following possible question stems to get you going.

Possible Questions	
Who do I speak with if...?	Is tutoring offered for...?
What types of extracurricular...?	What workstudy programs...?
May I try to test out of...?	What is the normal class size for...?
Where do I go for...?	How do I access my student account for...?