

2026 Short Essay Prompts

The purpose of these essay prompts is twofold: they allow the Wharton Global Youth admissions team to assess your interest in and preparedness for your intended program, while also giving us the chance to learn more about you. Please address each prompt thoughtfully, adhering to the specified word count. We encourage you to use clear, concise language and to proofread for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors before submitting.

While you may use generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) to help brainstorm and generate ideas, remember that these tools cannot fully capture your unique voice and attributes. If you choose to use such tools, it is crucial to do so ethically, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of your responses. AI-generated content should not be submitted as your own work and must be cited like any other reference material, with careful consideration of the source's quality. Any plagiarism or dishonesty will result in denial of your application.

Please refer to the Wharton Global Youth Program [AI policy](#) and application integrity statement for additional details.

[On-Campus Programs](#)

[Location-Based
Programs](#)

<https://globalyouth.wharton.upenn.edu/online-programs/>

ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Essentials of Entrepreneurship

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Think of a time when you noticed a problem or unmet need around you, at school, home, or in your community. What did you do in response, and what would you do differently if you could try again? (150-200 words)
- Share a specific situation in which you had limited resources (time, materials, knowledge, support) and still needed to achieve a goal. What did you do, and what did the experience teach you about creativity and persistence? (150-200 words)

Essentials of Finance

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Imagine you're a portfolio manager building an investment plan for yourself. Choose two real companies you would invest in based on your personal values, interests, and future financial goals. Support your choices with relevant financial data and explain how they reflect your long-term strategy. (150-200 words)
- What's a financial question, concept, or issue you wish more people your age understood? Why does it matter to you? (150-200 words)

Leadership in the Business World (LBW)

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Describe a change, small or large, you would like to see in the world. How could business play a role in driving that change? What role might you take in helping to make it happen? (150-200 words)
- **VIDEO SUBMISSION OR WRITTEN SUPPLEMENT:** In a 90-second video or a written statement of 300 words or less, we invite you to reflect on your own leadership journey and share a meaningful aspect of your identity, background, or personal story that has shaped the leader you are today. You might choose to describe your values, aspirations, challenges you've faced, role models who have influenced you, or the impact you hope to make in the future. Above all, we want to learn about *you*—how your experiences have shaped your perspective and how you show up as a leader in your community and beyond.

Data Science Academy

- In 100-250 words, please describe a global issue you are most passionate about and why.
- Please list and briefly explain up to three of your hobbies.

Moneyball Academy

- In 300-400 words, explain what inspires your interest in Sports Analytics and Statistics. How will you use that inspiration to make the most of your experience at Wharton Moneyball Academy?
- What do you think is/where have you seen the best use of sports statistics in the past year?
- Think back to a time you were watching or playing a sport or a game and had a question you couldn't let go of. What is the question? (100-150 words)
- List your top 3 favorite sports to either consume or play.
- What major USA sports league do you follow most closely?

Product Design Academy

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Describe a challenge that required you to design or fix something physically, digitally, or conceptually. How did you approach the problem, and what was your process like? (150-200 words)
- Choose a product that most people might overlook, but you think deserves more attention—whether for its oddness, brilliance, or both. What makes its design interesting? (150-200 words)

Management & Technology Summer Institute (M&TSI)

- In 500 words or less, describe a problem you solved using your technical and/or business creativity and skills.
- **VIDEO SUBMISSION OR WRITTEN SUPPLEMENT:** Please record a 90-second video of yourself sharing any additional comments you might have. Feel free to speak about yourself, your application, your interest in M&TSI, or anything you feel will help us get to know you better. Provide the URL of your video within your application.

If submitting a video supplement is not possible, you may submit a 500-word written statement as a substitute. This statement should address the same topics as a video and should be entered directly into the application.

LOCATION-BASED PROGRAMS

Cambridge, UK: Public Finance and Society

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Identify one issue (education, infrastructure, healthcare, etc.) where government involvement is essential. What are the potential trade-offs of this involvement? (150-200 words)
- Share a time you observed a government action or policy affecting real people, positively or negatively. How did this shape your view of public institutions? (150-200 words)

Cambridge, UK: Strategy and International Management

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Propose a global company or service that would work well in your local area. Why would it succeed, and what cultural, economic, or logistical challenges might it face? (150-200 words)
- Share a time when you had to plan, organize, or guide a group, formally or informally. What challenges did you face, and how did you adapt? (150-200 words)

San Francisco, CA: AI Leadership

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- What is a real challenge or risk you see in the use of generative AI? Why is it important to address, and how would you approach it? (150-200 words)
- Have you explored or experimented with AI in school, personal projects, or elsewhere? What did it teach you about the possibilities or limitations of technology? (150-200 words)

San Francisco, CA: Innovation and Startup Culture

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Identify a product, business model, or system that feels inefficient or outdated. What would you change, and why? (150-200 words)
- What's a startup or emerging business you admire and why? What can we learn from its approach to innovation? (150-200 words)

San Francisco, CA: Moneyball Experience

- In 300-400 words, explain what inspires your interest in Sports Analytics and Statistics. How will you use that inspiration to make the most of your experience at Wharton Moneyball Academy?
- What do you think is/where have you seen the best use of sports statistics in the past year?



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**Global Youth
Program**

- Think back to a time you were watching or playing a sport or a game and had a question you couldn't let go of. What is the question? (100-150 words)
- List your top 3 favorite sports to either consume or play.
- What major USA sports league do you follow most closely?

ONLINE PROGRAMS

Financial Decision Making

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Describe a time you had to make a financial decision. What factors influenced your approach, and what did you learn from the outcome? (150-200 words)

Future of the Business World

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Some of today's most successful businesses prioritize people over profits. Share an example of a real company or service that you believe truly meets human needs. What makes its approach meaningful to you? (150-200 words)

Essentials of Leadership

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- Leadership means different things to different people. How do you personally define leadership, and what values or qualities do you believe matter most? Use a real or personal example to illustrate how you strive to lead this way. (150-200 words)

Sports Business Academy

- In 300-450 words, tell us why you are interested in learning about the business of sports as a possible area for study and professional career path.
- Because this is a leadership-based program, please provide an example(s) of where you have exhibited leadership outside of the classroom. Do not exceed 450 words.
- List your top 3 favorite sports to either consume or play.

Moneyball Training Camp

- In 300-400 words, explain what inspires your interest in Sports Analytics and Statistics. How will you use that inspiration to make the most of your experience in the Wharton Moneyball program?
- What do you think is/where have you seen the best use of sports statistics in the past year?
- List your top 3 favorite sports to either consume or play.
- What major USA sports league do you follow most closely?

Moneyball FLEX

- What do you think is/where have you seen the best use of sports statistics in the past year?
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- What major USA sports league do you follow most closely?

Pre-Baccalaureate Program

- Personal Headline: In 140 characters or less, craft a professional headline, similar to LinkedIn, that showcases your skills, passions, and goals.
- How do you see the Wharton Pre-Baccalaureate program supporting your academic or personal goals? What do you hope to learn from it? (150-200 words)
- Share a personal story that reveals who you are and how you've grown. How has this experience shaped your values or direction? (150-200 words)