

2007

College Application

Russ Zygmunt

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Zygmunt, Russ (2007) "College Application," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2007 : Iss. 1 , Article 59.
Available at: <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2007/iss1/59>

This Fiction is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Messenger* by an authorized editor of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

This essay has to be between 500 and 750 words, so forgive me if it seems either incomplete or dragged out. I'm going to use this space to simply answer as many questions as I can, because admittedly I don't have the imagination to create an entire document about any single topic you've suggested.

"Describe a situation in which your leadership and/or teamwork had a significant impact." The summer before tenth grade, we heard that there was a gas station in town that didn't ID underage kids. Still, most of my friends were afraid to actually go in and try it out. I took the lead here and initiated a game of twenty-first finger, where the loser would be the one who had to buy the beer. The kid who lost purchased the six-pack without any hassle, but upon exiting, an undercover police officer grabbed him and took him in. He had to do 24 hours of community service and was grounded for the rest of the summer. Therefore, the leadership I displayed that day had a significant impact.

"Where is the most exciting place you have ever been and what did you learn from being there?" Well, in the interest of saving space, let's just say that I discovered it at the age of 16, and it's the softest place in the world. I learned that I want to get back there as often as possible.

"Is it possible to commit a courageous act without being a brave person?" As I've grown up, I've hardly ever been brave enough to make my own decisions. I follow the pack and rarely act in the way that I know is right. I have many flaws and almost never make the effort to improve them. There are many ghosts in my closet, but they are just too damn scary to confront. I've never even been brave enough to just be myself, but I have found the courage to talk to girls so I can seduce them. I did eventually go into that gas station, and bought beer for my friends. Thus, I believe it is possible to commit a courageous act from time to time and still be a total coward.

"Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence." My father, of course. I know this because, as much as my brother hates him, I can see that he's turned into my father more and more every year since college. He works as an investment banker. He has no tolerance for the inadequacies of others. He orders vodka tonics. And he tells me that if I want to maintain the financially comfortable life I'm used to, one day I too will have a high-stress job where everything needs to be done right. And my wife won't have a job so hard, and she won't be able to perform at the level I'm used to. He tells me that no matter how patient I am with her, how much I like her or how pretty she is, I won't be able to trust her with anything. How that will piss me off so much, and then I too will understand why Dad is the way that he is. And even though I'm not like my brother, and I've always resented our father even more than he has, I see that there's no escaping the bitter, agitated roots of our family tree. My father has placed me firmly on the path of becoming, inevitably, him. Therefore, I would say he has had the most significant influence on my life.

In conclusion, the reason I want to attend your university is because everyone has to go to college. And because the questions you test me with are so fucking easy, I trust I can glide through all your classes, do the bare minimum and still end up perfectly molded for this life I can't escape.