

Breakdown of an essay answering Why X?

Why are you interested in attending Columbia University? (150 words or fewer)*

I am an oxymoron. I am a creative geek, yet an analytical scientist. Like me, Columbia embraces the idea of being an oxymoron to celebrate its uniqueness. The intimate classes, nestled within a sprawling campus, foster personalized learning.

The Columbia Musical Theatre Society (CMTS) in-particular will give me a distinct opportunity to combine music and theatre, along with a diverse community of artists to learn from. The prospect of interacting with Professors such as Dorothea Lasky of the Poetry Concentration at Columbia is exhilarating as a writer and poet myself. To transcend my love for the stage, I hope to participate in MUNs, using my experience in high school to discuss international affairs on a larger scale. I believe I will have the ideal platform to combine my extracurricular interests with my leadership skills by organising thought leadership events on chemistry and biology with the Chandler Society on 116th Street.

Commented [1]: The essay begins with a striking metaphor which immediately grabs attention. This metaphor not only piques interest but also conveys the applicant's multifaceted personality, setting the stage for a compelling narrative.

Commented [2]: A close associationship between the student and the University is established.

Commented [3]: Here, the applicant aligns their personal identity with the values of Columbia. This connection demonstrates a deep understanding of the university's culture and ethos.

Commented [4]: The mention of CMTS illustrates the applicant's specific interest in combining music and theatre, highlighting a unique aspect of Columbia that aligns with their passions. This specificity shows that the applicant has done thorough research.

Commented [5]: The reference to Professor Dorothea Lasky in the Poetry Concentration highlights a concrete academic interest. This not only shows the applicant's passion for writing and poetry but also their desire to engage with Columbia's esteemed faculty.

Commented [6]: By mentioning MUNs and their high school experience, the applicant demonstrates a continued commitment to discussing international affairs. This shows how their past experiences will translate into active participation at Columbia.

Commented [7]: The desire to organize thought leadership events on chemistry and biology with the Chandler Society showcases the applicant's leadership potential and enthusiasm for making meaningful contributions to the university community. This indicates a proactive attitude and readiness to engage deeply with Columbia's academic and extracurricular offerings.