

COMMON APP ADDS COVID-19 QUESTION TO 2020-2021 APPLICATION (May 2020)

The Common Application has recently decided to add a short essay question to the application for the upcoming application cycle. This is an acknowledgement that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives for many students. The additional question will provide those applicants affected by the events of the pandemic, and provide them with a way to share their experiences, both personally and academically with colleges and universities.

The objective of this additional question is to provide colleges with the information they need, with the goal of having students answer COVID-19 questions only once while using the rest of the application to share their interests and perspectives beyond COVID-19.

The question students will see on the application is as follows:

Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces.

- *Do you wish to share anything on this topic? Y/N*
- *Please use this space to describe how these events have impacted you.*

The question will be optional and will appear in the Additional Information section of the application. The response will be limited to 250 words.

This new question will not replace the current Additional Information question inviting students to discuss circumstances and qualifications not reflected elsewhere in the application.

