

Secondary Prompt Bank

45 actual prompts, organized by the nine archetypes that drive the 2026–2027 U.S. MD secondary cycle.

Concise companion reference · 2026–2027 cycle
Pair with the *Secondary Essays Playbook*.

Build your reuse library in 60 minutes

Use the bank to prewrite adaptable cores. The final essay should still sound written for one school, not copied to many.

0–10 min

Tag your list

Mark every school prompt by archetype. Count repeats.

10–25 min

Choose stories

Assign one primary story and one backup to each archetype.

25–45 min

Draft cores

Write 250-word modular drafts using the Playbook frameworks.

45–60 min

Build variants

Create 150-, 250-, and 400-word versions. Leave school details blank.

What may be reused

- The central story and turning point.
- The reflection on what changed.
- The evidence of your role and actions.
- Your long-term values and goals.

What must be rewritten

- School, campus, program, and city references.
- Mission alignment and contribution.
- The opening and final sentence.
- Every answer to a different verb: describe, reflect, analyze, explain.

The five-line quality check

1. Did I answer every clause?
2. Is my role unmistakable?
3. Is there a concrete action?
4. Did I show insight or change?
5. Could this essay go to another school unchanged? If yes, revise.

Do not paste from this bank into a live application.

First confirm the prompt in the portal, then draft from the school's exact wording.

Prompts change. Verify exact wording and limits in each school's own secondary before submitting.

2

The nine-draft reuse map

Draft once at full length; compress only after the argument works.

Archetype	Playbook chapter	Examples here
Diversity, perspective & contribution	Diversity & Contribution Framework	5
Adversity, setback & growth	Challenge-to-Growth Framework	5
Why us & mission fit	Why This School Framework	5
Leadership, teamwork & collaboration	Leadership & Teamwork Framework	5
Service, advocacy & health equity	Service-to-Impact Framework	5
Gap year & current activities	Current Activities Framework	5
Clinical motivation & future physician	Clinical Motivation Framework	5
Curiosity, ethics & judgment	Judgment & Reflection Framework	5
Anything else, context & reapplication	Context & Reapplication Framework	5

Name files for reuse

01_Diversity_400
02_Challenge_250
03_WhyUs_[School]
04_Leadership_300
05_Service_250

Add the operational drafts

06_GapYear_150
07_Clinical_250
08_Judgment_250
09_Context_200

Rule: reuse structure, not generic language. A strong “Why us” essay names resources, communities, and opportunities that actually connect to your prior work and next step.

Diversity, perspective & contribution

What shaped your lens - and what will others gain from it?

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

“Diversity comes in many forms. How do you think you might contribute to the diversity of the class?”

2026–2027 · limit not stated · [source](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

“Please describe the impact of your identity and experiences on your growth and development, and how it may impact your career as a physician.”

2026–2027 · 1,500 characters · [source](#)

UMASS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

“How will your lived experiences, your background, your identity or that which makes you unique contribute to the diverse community and learning environment at UMass Chan?”

2026–2027 · 200 words · [source](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MEDICAL SCHOOL

“How would you contribute to a learning environment that respects and supports individuals with a wide range of identities, perspectives, and life experiences? Please share specific examples from your professional and/or personal background that demonstrate your ability to work effectively with people from varied communities.”

2026–2027 · 1,500 characters · [source](#)

MAYO CLINIC ALIX SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

“Reflect on how your professional and lived experiences have shaped your identity. Tell us how these experiences will help you contribute to a collaborative learning environment, support your patients and colleagues, and advance Mayo Clinic’s commitment to excellence.”

2026–2027 · 500 words · [source](#)

Pair with: *Secondary Essays Playbook* — Diversity & Contribution Framework. Use its story-selection test, outline, and revision checklist before adapting to the school.

FREE PREVIEW · WHAT'S INSIDE THE FULL GUIDE

Secondary Prompt Bank

You've read the opening pages. Here is everything else the guide covers:

- 45 verified 2026–2027 secondary prompts from 26 schools
- Every prompt sorted by the nine essay archetypes
- The nine-draft reuse map: draft once, adapt everywhere
- Build your reuse library in 60 minutes
- Prompts from schools including Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Duke
- Columbia, UVA, Michigan, Mayo Clinic, and more
- Archetype cross-reference for every prompt

Get the full guide — \$19