



College Newsletter Summer 2009



Ahhh Summer... time for lazy days, vacations, relaxing and *thinking about college!* That's right, now is the perfect time to consider what you will be doing after high school. So, visit some campuses, talk to friends who have gone to college and check out college websites. All this will help when you have to make your own decision about where to apply and what you want to study.

Crafting Your Best College Application

Colleges with competitive admissions receive applications from many more students than they can admit. And admissions officers at these schools look beyond just the academic credentials of their candidates. They look at the application as a whole to find the best students for their college communities.

In order to stand out, you must construct an application that weaves together your interests, abilities, and values. This develops a theme that represents who you are through your talents and passions and allows admissions officers to envision how you might contribute to their school.

For example, if you are interested in studying education, create an application that reflects a passion for teaching. Accentuate applicable high school course work such as psychology or child development. Describe volunteer activities such as tutoring, teaching Sunday School, or leading activities at a Boys and Girls Club. And pick a favorite book to discuss such as Jonathan Kozol's Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools.

The essay section of the application is often the most dreaded. Students agonize over how to answer specific questions or how to find a unique situation about which to write. But this is your chance to shine, to get personal with the admission team and to raise your application above the rest. With a good amount of thought and effort, you can write an essay that reflects your voice and provides a new insight into your character and personality. It should not repeat any information that is found elsewhere in the application. One strategy is to take small, even common, moments in life and add an unusual perspective. The goal is to make your thoughts and voice heard.

Lastly, admissions committees consider how well applicants will relate to the other members of the college community. A student who appears trustworthy, genuine and kind will be favorably regarded. If your application or any of your recommendations raise concerns about

dishonesty or disrespectfulness, it will not be well received.

Top applications weave your story into a college-specific format. When your application, essays, recommendations, test scores and transcript all convey a compelling and accomplished personality, you will have your best chance of success in the admissions process.

Test dates for the 2009-2010 School Year

SAT:

Test date	Registration date
October 10, 2009	September 9, 2009
November 7, 2009	October 1, 2009
December 5, 2009	October 30, 2009
January 23, 2010	December 15, 2010
March 13, 2010	February 4, 2010
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010

ACT:

Test date	Registration date
September 13, 2009	August 12, 2009
October 25, 2009	September 22, 2009
December 13, 2009	November 7, 2009
February 7, 2010	January 8, 2010
April 4, 2010	February 27, 2010
June 13, 2010	May 8, 2010

Check it out ✓

www.kathrynmarch.com recommends the following website: www.meritaid.com for information about scholarships based on accomplishments, abilities and talents and not financial need!