



# Table of Contents

Introductions.....Pages 3-4

College Countdown....Page 5

Gathering Application Information.....Page 5

Admissions “To Do” List....Page 6

College Selection Tips & Research.... Pages 7-10

The College Fair....Page 8

College Entrance Exams....Pages 9-10

Narrowing The Field....Pages 11-12

Writing The College Essays...ages 16-20

Specialty Admissions...Pages 21-22

Advice for Parents...Page 23

Additional Services....Page 24



# How To Use This Workbook



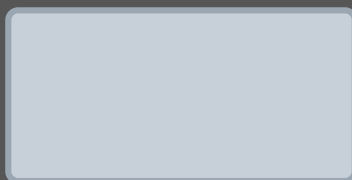
**You could print this book, or use the 'add text' tool in a PDF reader to write directly on the pages**



**You could start anywhere, but the pages are in the order of the application process.**

- 1. Research**
- 2. Narrowing Your Choices**
- 3. Completing Applications/Essays**

**Wherever you see this shape,**



**we encourage you to use the add text tool and consider the prompts.**



**When you see the "play button," we have created a video to guide your work.**



**We have embedded lots of links throughout the workbook. The links were all live as of the publishing of the workbook. The links will take you to independent websites, which we do not own or maintain.**

# To Do List:



Until you push submit there is always something "to do" for your applications, but here are some things to get you started.



Create an **email account** that you can devote to your college application and scholarship search. Nothing funny, nothing cute. Just keep it simple.



Have a **discussion** with your parent(s)/guardian(s) about the **finances** of the application process and college itself. How many schools can you AFFORD to apply to? Are there any schools that are out of the realm of affordability?



**Make your accounts** with the College Board, the ACT, the Common Application, and/or the Coalition. If your school uses Parchment or another transcript service, build that account too.



Get a **copy of your transcript** if possible. It can be an unofficial copy. If not available, get your GPA(weighted and unweighted) from our school counselor.



Do a "**self inventory**." Do you need a little more community service, leadership, or involvement. It's never too late to add **valuable experiences**(focus on valuable).

# Selecting A College For You

**Where you decide to go to college is one of the most important decisions you can make. The environment in which you immerse yourself in college will be the foundation of your ideals in adulthood. Here are some priorities to consider when selecting a college.**



- **Location** : not just proximity to your home, but can you do the things you want to do there? (horseback riding, hiking, water sports, etc.)
- **Academics**: does the school have the major in which you are interested?
- **Size**: small = fewer than 5,000  
medium = between 5,000 and 15,000  
large = larger than 15,000
- **Campus Appeal** : Rural, Suburban, or Urban
- **Social Life** - Programs, Fraternities, Sororities, Clubs and Organizations
- **Total Cost** (Including aid): Is it worth the greater cost to go out-of-state or can an in-state school offer what you need for an undergraduate degree? <https://www.schev.edu/index/students-and-parents/explore/virginia-institutions>

## Admissions Vocabulary

**It is important to know the different terminology you will be using during the application process: Below are a list of terms for which you should familiarize yourself:**

**Reach School** - A school you might get in on your best day. Maybe your GPA and/or SAT/ACT score may be short of the school averages

**Solid School** - A school you get in almost every time. Your numbers fall solidly in the range for which the school is looking

**Fall Back School** - A school you can get into on your worst day. 99 times out of 100, this is a school in which you can enroll

**Early Decision** - "Binding" - you can only apply to one school ED. It is a commitment as your first and only choice

**Early Action** - "Non-binding" - you can apply to as many schools EA as you like. You will find out your admissions status earlier than others who apply regular decision.

**Regular Decision** - Apply by a specific date, find out your admittance by a specific date.

**Rolling Admissions** - Applications reviewed as they are submitted. Decisions will be released throughout the admissions cycle.