



*Preparing
young women
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difference
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Applying to American Colleges

March 29, 2022

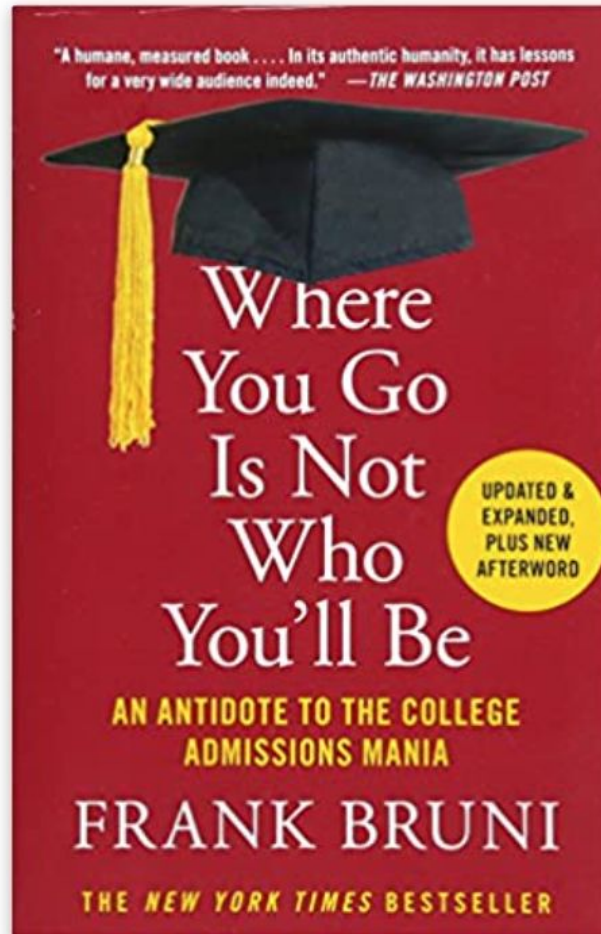


Havergal
COLLEGE

Overview of Presentation

- Parts of the Application
- Timeline
- Trends
- Useful Resources





Parts of a US Application

- Common Application - not all schools use this, but most do
- SAT/ACT tests - schools are remaining test optional next year
- School report and reference letter- completed by guidance counsellor
- School specific application and essays - an opportunity for new info
- Teacher references -2 references are advised



The Common Application

- Profile
- Family Information
- Education
- Testing
- Activity List
- Common Application Essay (from the prompts)
- Courses & Grades



The Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have **a background, identity, interest, or talent** that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share **your story**.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. **Recount a time when you faced a challenge**, setback, or failure. **How did it affect** you, and **what did you learn** from the experience?
3. **Reflect** on a time when you **questioned or challenged a belief or idea**. **What prompted** your thinking? **What was the outcome**?
4. **Reflect** on **something that someone has done** for you that has made you **happy or thankful** in a surprising way. **How** has this gratitude **affected or motivated you**?



5. Discuss an **accomplishment, event, or realization** that sparked a period of **personal growth** and a **new understanding** of yourself or others.
6. **Describe a topic, idea, or concept** you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. **Why** does it captivate you? **What or who** do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. **Share an essay on any topic of your choice**. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

****A good resource to help you think if how to get started**

<https://www.collegeessayadvisors.com/portfolio-items/2021-22-common-application-essay-prompts-guide/>

<https://www.collegeessayadvisors.com/how-to-write-the-common-apps-new-optional-covid-19-essay/>

Optional COVID-19 prompt

“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 length will be limited to 250 words.”

<https://www.commonapp.org/blog/COVID-19-question-common-app>



Timeline

WHAT CAN YOUR CHILD BE DOING NOW AND OVER THE SUMMER?

- Meet with their guidance counsellor to talk about their plans
- The Common Application usually opens August 1, however it opened early last year, is open and students can begin populating demographic information
<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students>
- Research colleges via the Common App or other virtual fairs and begin creating a list
- Look at the Common Application prompts and begin drafting their essay
- Prepare and sign up for Standardized testing ACT or SAT (if they want to) Free online course from Khan Academy [Free Online SAT COURSE - Khan Academy](#)
- Update their resume
- Go to the [telling your story guide](#) on common app



Timeline (continued)

IN SEPTEMBER

- Submit the University Information Form to your guidance counsellor and share the Parent Information Form with parents, meet with your guidance counsellor
- Choose two teachers to write your recommendation letters and ask them in person followed up by a written thank you including your resume and any class specific information teachers request
- Decide if you are applying Early Decision, Early Action or Regular Decision (Early Decision is a Binding agreement, Early action is non-binding - both of these options have a November 1 or November 15 application deadline)



Timeline (continued)

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

- Regular Decision applications are due in most cases on JANUARY 1

Standardized testing can be taken until December 2022 (typically there are SAT has test dates for August, October, November and December)



US APPLICATION TRENDS

- Increase in the number of offers for ED applicants (Boston U - 50%, Barnard 62%)
- Most schools are continuing test optional application requirements. (around half of admitted students presented standardized test scores)
- Of scores presented, there is a significant increase in the achievement on the tests
- Applications have increased approximately 15 - 20% this year



An Example of admission data from Boston College

Round	Applications	Admits	Admit Rate
Early Decision I*	2,944	804	27.3%
Early Decision II*	1,484	449	30.2%
Regular Decision	36,049	5,425	15.0%
Overall	40,477	6,678	16.4%



Some Useful Resources

[Havergal University Counselling Handbook 2021-22](#)

www.collegeboard.org

www.commonapp.org

www.princetonreview.com – links and surveys

www.ncaa.org – for athletes

www.usnews.com – college rankings

www.collegelink.com – student perspective

<http://www.collegeview.com/> - stats, rankings, programs

Other Useful links

Tips on Common App Essay

<https://www.shemmassianconsulting.com/blog/how-to-write-the-common-app-essay>



Some Final Thoughts

- The US is an expensive endeavour. Carefully consider the product you are investing in
- Discuss with your child, their goals and aspirations
- Look for the right “fit”
- Let your child take ownership of process
- Be realistic, build a list that includes the likelihood of positive outcomes
- Select a manageable number of schools. Quality applications take a lot of time to write.
- Schools are going to be relying on the student story now more than ever, students must make readers clearly understand who they are and what they will contribute



US Information meeting for grade 11 students was
February, 2

UK Information May 4, 2022 during Wellbeing Time

Boston University - April 4 @ 12:15

Practice SAT - Tuesday, April 5, 4:30-8pm.

Practice ACT - Tuesday, April 12, 4:30-8pm.

