NAVIGATING APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION FORMS

- What information should you gather?
- Common App vs. Coalition App
- Supplemental Essays?
- Proofreading for Consistency
- Deadlines

TEST SCORES

- SAT vs. ACT
- SAT Subject Tests
- Test Optional
- Submiting Scores to Schools

APPLICATION FEES

- $0 to $80+
- Fee Waivers

TRANSCRIPTS

- Guidance Counselor's Role
- Mid-Year Transcript
- Final Transcript

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Whom should you ask?
- When should you ask?
- How many do you need?
- What two things should you always give to your recommenders?

ESSAYS

- Personal Statement
- Supplemental Essays
- Proofreading & Revising

FINANCIAL AID

- October 1st!
- Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile

LINGO YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Early Action (EA)
- Early Decision (ED)
- Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA)
- Class Rank
- Coalition Application
- Common Application
- FERPA Waiver
- Priority Date or Deadline
- Rolling Admission
- SAT Subject Tests
- Waiting List

NOTES:

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THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

PICKING A TOPIC

- Keep it specific
- Make sure it matters to you
- Consider
  - Achievements
  - Background
  - Non-Academic Interests
  - Major Life Events & Obstacles
  - Personal Circumstances
  - Community Service

WRITING A DRAFT

- Be prepared to write several drafts
- Do not be too concerned with the word count for the first draft

HONESTY

- Be honest and thoughtful in your response
- Do not overly embellish
- In a blind reading of your personal statement mixed in with others, your family and friends should be able to identify yours

COHERENCE

- Be precise in your response
- Don't try to share every interest, every societal concern, every accomplishment, every ambition, and every passion

FOCUS ON

- Your strengths
- Using your own voice
- Revealing something new about yourself
- Using the right word choice and tone
- Engaging the reader
- Answering the question

AVOID

- Trite Expressions
- Vague Words
- Redundancy
- Negativity
- Offensive political or religious statements
- Passive Voice

PROOFREAD

- Have at least two trusted individuals proofread your statement
- Check for mistakes in:
  - Spelling
  - Mechanics
  - Grammar
  - Punctuation
  - Formatting

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