

DESIGNING THE “PERFECT” COLLEGE

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut up each sheet into 12 cards. Parents and students each have 12 cards.
 2. On the back of each card, write down the specific area, behavior, or action which occurs to you as you think of each category. (Do not share your ideas with each other as you are writing them down.) Use the following suggestions as a guide:
 - a. **Geographic Location:** Skiing? Ocean? Warm? Exposure to new parts of the country? Close to home?
 - b. **Cost:** Tuition? Availability of aid? Parent helps? Student pays?
 - c. **Size of College:** Small? Large? Large or small classes? Housing availability?
 - d. **Prestige:** Ivy League? Will I get in? Can I stay in ?
 - e. **Academic Programs:** Is my major offered? Number of faculty in major? Breadth of courses?
 - f. **Surrounding Community:** Large urban city? Rural? Safety? Transportation?
 - g. **Sports:** Division I ? Strong intramurals? Could I play?
 - h. **Social Atmosphere:** Orientation program? Residential? Commuter? Political ? Party atmosphere ? Sororities and Fraternities?
 - i. **Religious Orientation:** Loose historical affiliation? Required religion courses? Strong emphasis?
 - j. **Student Body:** Single sex? Coed? Diverse or homogeneous? Large geographic representation?
 - k. **Extra-Curricular Opportunities:** Newspaper vs. journalism classes? Plays open to non-drama majors? Debate? Radio and t.v.
 - l. **Academic Atmosphere:** Challenging? Intense? Relaxed ? Supportive? Scholarly vs. career oriented?
 3. Rank the cards in order of importance to you. Arrange the cards so that you place the card with the most importance to you on the top and the card with the least importance on the bottom.
 4. Discard those cards in which you have no interest.
 5. Number the front of each card from #1 (most important) to #? (least important depending upon how many cards you have left).
 6. Parents and students now discuss their individual rankings. Which cards are more important? Why? Perhaps some rankings may change after the discussion, but good communication should always occur.
- Goal:** Eventual agreement between parents and students as to which types of colleges to apply to in the twelfth grade.

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Sports

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