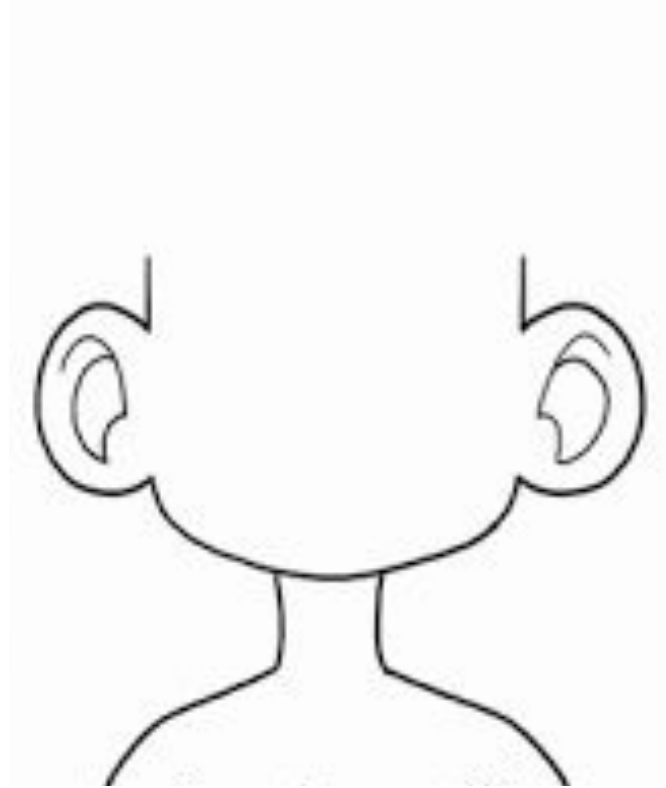


Go to [joinpd.com](https://joinpd.com) and enter code: ryo rtv



While we wait to  
get started, feel  
free to draw  
yourself in your  
future career!

If you're not able to access the  
peardeck, you can share in the  
chat instead!



Students, draw anywhere on this slide!

# **What We Wish We Knew Before Applying to College**

...

College Insight Presentation

Before we get started, please complete our survey so we know more about your current college knowledge.



# Introductions

## Brianna

- ★ Senior at San Pasqual High School
- ★ Top Choice: **University of California Berkeley**

## Karen

- ★ Senior at Santa Monica High School
- ★ Top Choice: **UC Davis**

## Tania

- ★ Senior at Escondido High School
- ★ Attending: **Columbia University**

## Jimmy

- ★ Senior at San Pasqual High School
- ★ Top Choice: **University of Southern California / Occidental College**

## Kimberly

- ★ Senior at Escondido High School
- ★ Top Choice: **UC Merced**

## Bryan

- ★ Senior at Escondido High School
- ★ Top Choice: **UC Santa Barbara**

# What are fit factors?

Feel free to type your guess in the chat!

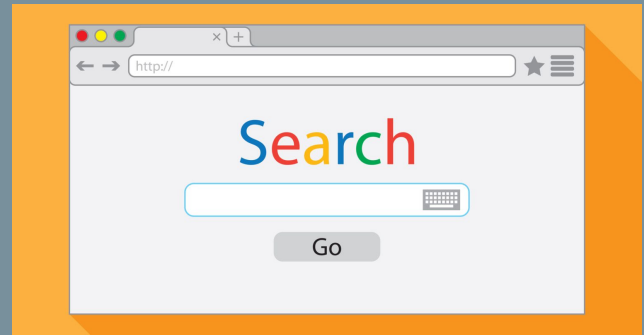
# How do you begin your search?

**Fit factors:** big/small school, class size, location, distance from home, urban/suburban/rural, type of institution, academic programs, class size, student body organizations, student-to-teacher-ratio, etc.

**Academic Offerings:** majors/minors, degrees, etc.

**Cost of Attendance:** Tuition (In-state or Out-of State), Books + Supplies, Room & Board, Transportation, Health Insurance, Personal + Miscellaneous Expenses

**Compatibility is key**



# Categorize your schools

First, ***separate*** based on the type of institution

- UC, CSU, Private, Out of States

- (optional) label into Research, Liberal Arts, Religiously Affiliated, etc.

Second, ***research*** the Admission Rate, the required Average GPA, Average Test Scores (optional), and Percent Need Met

- Ex: Pomona College (Liberal Arts, Private); Admission Rate: 8%;GPA: 4.05; Need-met: 100%

Lastly, ***label*** the school SAFETY, TARGET, or REACH

**\* You can compensate for a lower GPA with more difficult classes, like AP or IB classes.**

# TYPES OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

- Liberal Arts Colleges
- Research Universities
- Art Colleges
- Religiously Affiliated Colleges
- Single-Sex Institutions
- Specialized mission colleges



# BALANCED COLLEGE LIST

**SAFETY SCHOOLS**- sometimes called a "backup school". You will mostly likely get in because your standardized test scores, class rank and high school grades are **well above the average** for admitted students and have relatively high acceptance rates.

**TARGET SCHOOLS**- School where your academic credentials (grades, SAT or ACT scores , and class rank) fall well **within the school's average range** for the most recently accepted class. There are no guarantees, but it's not unreasonable to expect to be accepted to several of your target schools.

**REACH SCHOOLS**- A particular college where your high school GPA and standardized test scores are **below those of the college's average student**.

# The admission rate can alter whether this is a safety/target/reach school for you.

[**Scenario**] I have an average GPA of a 4.0. My school of interest is Stanford.

## Stanford

Type of institution: Research, Private

Admission Rate: 4.4%

GPA: 3.96

Need met: 100%

Because the admission rate for Stanford is 4.4%, it would make this school a reach school.

**WHY?** Chances of me getting in are pretty low based on how many students are actually admitted and its competitiveness as many students apply

**REMEMBER: EVEN IF THE SCHOOL YOU WANT TO GO TO FALLS UNDER REACH, IT DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN'T GET IN!**

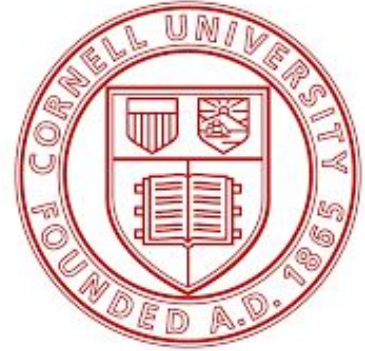
## Cornell University

Acceptance rate: 10.6%

GPA: 4.01

## Student Profile:

GPA: 4.0



Students choose an option

# **REACH SCHOOLS**

This would be a REACH school.

- We fall slightly below the average GPA
- The admission rate is low.

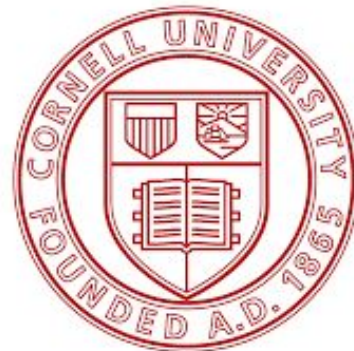
## **Cornell University**

Acceptance rate: 10.6%

GPA: 4.01

## **Student Profile:**

GPA: 4.0



## Northern Arizona University

Acceptance rate 82.6%

GPA: 3.6

## Student Profile:

GPA: 4.0



Students choose an option

# SAFETY SCHOOLS

This would be a SAFETY school.

- Our GPA is way above the average
- There is a high acceptance rate

## Northern Arizona University

Acceptance rate 82.6%

GPA: 3.6

## Student Profile:

GPA: 4.0



USC

Acceptance rate: 13%

GPA: 3.79

Student Profile:

GPA: 4.0



Students choose an option

# TARGET SCHOOLS

This would be TARGET school.

- Our GPA is above the average GPA
- Due to the acceptance rate being somewhat low, the category would be target

USC

Acceptance rate: 13%

GPA: 3.79

Student Profile:

GPA: 4.0





## **REMEMBER:**

THIS IS JUST AN OVERVIEW OF SCHOOLS. MOST  
SCHOOLS HAVE A HOLISTIC APPLICATION  
REVIEW, SO THEY DON'T JUST LOOK AT YOUR  
GPA OR TEST SCORES.

**(Essays are super important!)**

# WHAT ARE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICERS LOOKING FOR?

**Who Am I?"**

**"Why Am I Here?"**

**"What is Unique About Me?"**

**"What Matters to Me? Why does it matter"**

1. Who is this person?
2. Will this person contribute something of value to our campus?
3. Can this person write?

# How Do I Write the Common App Essays?

It's encouraged for students to have their own voice and personality shine through. Personal Statements need to showcase you above all things.

A strong personal statement will have a theme that answers these **two** questions:

- 1) *What happened?*
- 2) *Why does it matter?*

The *WHY* (the learning or insight) is more important than the *WHAT* (the experience) (what you felt during that experience).

# HOW DO I WRITE A GREAT COMMON APP ESSAY?



1. Brainstorm & think about how you want to answer the prompt
2. Structure your essay according to your topic (the question)
3. Write a draft.
4. Revise (Have several people proofread your essay)
5. Repeat.

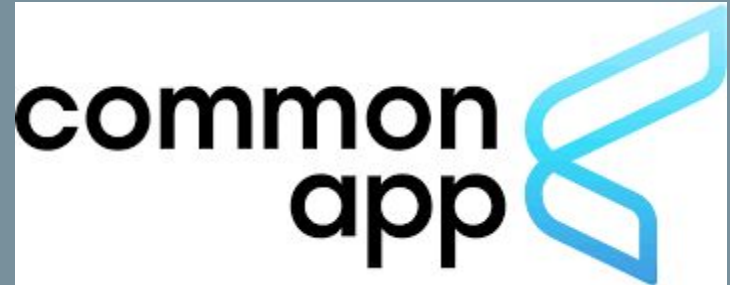
## **Additional Tips for Writing the Essay**

- Balance you vs. them (you should showcase you above all things)
- Admission officers want to know about your personal growth
- Brand yourself  
(focus on yourself)

# COMMON APP

- Accepted by nearly 900 private colleges and some public but not California
- Through the platform, applicants can apply to multiple colleges at once.
- Each college may require additional information such as supplemental essays.

<https://www.commonapp.org/>



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Personal Insight Question (PIQ) Summary and Tips:

**The UC application essay is a way to give colleges a sense of your personality, your perspective and explain some experiences that made you into who you are today.**

**Essay tips:**

- Think about what question is asking
- What is UC hoping to learn about you
- Find your arc (describe and explain the experience that has changed you but how you grew from it)
- Talk about personal growth
- Your personal statement needs to showcase you

# UC Personal Insight Question (PIQ) Prompts

1. Describe **an example of your leadership experience** in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express **your creative side**.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? **How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?**
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or **worked to overcome an educational barrier** you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the **steps you have taken to overcome this challenge**. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. **What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**
8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, **what do you believe makes you stand out** as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

# University of California

10 Schools statewide (9 open to Undergrads/Transfers)

- 4-year institutions

Degrees Offered

- Bachelors
- Masters
- Doctorate/ Professional

Tuition: ~\$33,000/year, but lots of financial aid available!





# CSU (California State University)

23 Schools statewide

Type: 4 year institutions

Degrees offered:

-Bachelors (B.A./B.S.)

- Masters

-Teaching Credentials

Website:

[www.calstate.edu/apply](http://www.calstate.edu/apply)

Freshman Requirements:

1. H.S. Diploma
2. GPA: 2.0
3. Completed A-G courses

Due to the large number of applicants, some CSU campuses have higher standards (supplementary admission criteria) for particular majors or for students who live outside the local campus area.



# California Community Colleges

**Number of Institutions:** 112+ schools statewide

**Type:** 2 year institutions

**Requirements:** 18 years or older

If under 18: High School Diploma or High School equivalent (GED)

**Degrees or services offered:** Technical or Vocational Certificates

- Associates Degrees (A.A/A.S)
- Transfer to a 4-year university
- Concurrent Enrollment



California  
Community  
Colleges

**Website:** [ccapply.org](http://ccapply.org)

**Cost** \$1,200-1,700(year), but keep low transfer rate to 4-year in mind



# Financial Aid

## 4 Types of Financial Aid

- **Grants:** Need-based money with no repayment
- **Scholarships:** Merit-/Performance-based without repayment
- **Work Study:** Need-based campus job, wages go directly to student
- **Federal Loans:** Fixed low-interest rate money that needs to be repaid

## Sources of Financial Aid

- **State, Federal, School, Private**

# Financial Aid Forms

Application	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	GPA Verification Form	CSS Profile	CA Dream Act Application
Financial Aid Type	Grants, scholarships, work-study, student loans	Cal Grants	Institutional Aid (Private Schools)	Cal Grant (AB540 students ONLY)
Deadline	March 2	March 2	Depends on school	March 2
Register	Fafsa.gov	Csac.ca.gov	Collegeboard.org	Csac.ca.gov
Cost	\$0	\$0	\$25+ (Fee Waivers available based on financial need)	\$0

# Summers are very important!

- **Be proactive!**
- **Maximize your free time by doing things that will benefit both your short- and long-term goals**
  - Strengthen current skills
  - Develop new skills
  - Take college classes (so you can get ahead)
  - Summer immersion program at schools (taking enrichment courses)
  - Work a job (with your future career in mind, if possible)
  - Internship
  - Sports
  - Community service
- **Colleges like to see that you are spending your time wisely and staying busy**

What is one thing you are going to do this summer to be productive?



Students, write your response!

# DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

- Demonstrated Interest refers to a student's ability to demonstrate interest in a particular college.

*Do your research! The benefit to understanding the school will help you understand your college fit and help you demonstrate interest.*

# WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE INTEREST

Virtual / Social Media	In Person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Email College Representative</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Campus Visit</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow college on social media</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attending College fairs (can be virtual)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore / Research College Websites</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interviews (can be virtual)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open emails sent from the college</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fly-In Program</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College Greenlight - Online College Fairs</li></ul>	
College Applications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apply Early Action / Early Decision</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supplemental Essays</li></ul>



# COVID-19 UPDATES

## TEST OPTIONAL

- Some schools have made the SAT/ACT **optional**, in other words it is not required for you to submit. Choosing to not submit your scores will not affect the way your application is reviewed and the case is the same if you do decide to submit your scores. IT IS IMPORTANT TO RESEARCH THE SCHOOLS AND STAY UP TO DATE!

## EXTRACURRICULARS

- Participate in activities you are truly interested in. Admissions staff can tell when a student's activities are inauthentic and solely a means of "resume building."
- **Commitment, Leadership, Involvement**

# 2 Minute Break/QUESTIONS? :)



Students, write your response!

# THINGS TO DO: JUNIORS

- ❑ **START THINKING ABOUT COLLEGES YOU'RE INTERESTED IN**
  - ➔ Think about which would be your reach, target and safety schools
  - ➔ Make note of application deadlines as well as requirements (GPA, Essays, Letters of Recommendation, etc)
- ❑ **START DRAFTING PERSONAL STATEMENTS/ PIQ RESPONSES**
- ❑ **ASK TEACHERS FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
  - ➔ Someone who knows you well and would be able to write a strong letter for you
  - ➔ Remember to write thank you letters for them too!
- ❑ **LOOK INTO SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
  - ➔ Make note of deadlines and requirements (maybe put reminders in your calendar)
  - ➔ Some are open to Juniors, many are for seniors which you will be in just a few short months

# THINGS TO DO: SOPHOMORES/FRESHMEN

- ❑ **START THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN**
  - ➔ Join extracurriculars you're passionate about
  - ➔ Great place for leadership! (Commitment over quantity)
- ❑ **BUILD THOSE GOOD STUDY HABITS!**
- ❑ **MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH TEACHERS**
- ❑ **BRAINSTORM WHAT YOU WANT YOUR FUTURE TO LOOK LIKE**
  - ➔ Research how to get there
- ❑ **BE PROACTIVE**
- ❑ **SCHOLARSHIPS**

# Scholarships

- ★ Gates
- ★ QuestBridge
- ★ Simon Scholars - SPHS Sophomores
- ★ Coca Cola Scholarship
- ★ Jack Kent Cooke scholarship

## Search Engines:

- [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)
- [unigo.com](http://unigo.com)
- [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)



## Resourcefulness

**Be open to speaking up for yourself and your needs**

→ Academic, personal life & mental health

**Talk to others and take advantage of opportunities that come your way**

→ Learning from others experiences can help you in your own journey

**It will benefit you and your future, put in the work now**

## Mental Health

**Important to take time for yourself and your mental health**

→ Can affect your academic performance in positive and negative ways

→ There's no shame in it asking for help

## academics

**Do your best to give yourself options after high school, this means getting good grades and taking higher level classes if you can**

→ May be hard to do without support, don't be afraid to seek out tutoring or additional resources!

**If you're struggling or just confused in a certain class, don't be afraid to ask questions**

→ Alternatives to speaking up in class: email, office hours, etc

→ You're building on knowledge prior classes, so it's important you have a good foundation

◆ It's not too late to get back on track!

# Helpful Websites !

**COLLEGE GREENLIGHT:**

<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>

**COLLEGE DATA:**

<https://www.collegedata.com/>

**PRINCETON REVIEW:**

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/dream-match-safety-schools>

**UC WEBSITE:**

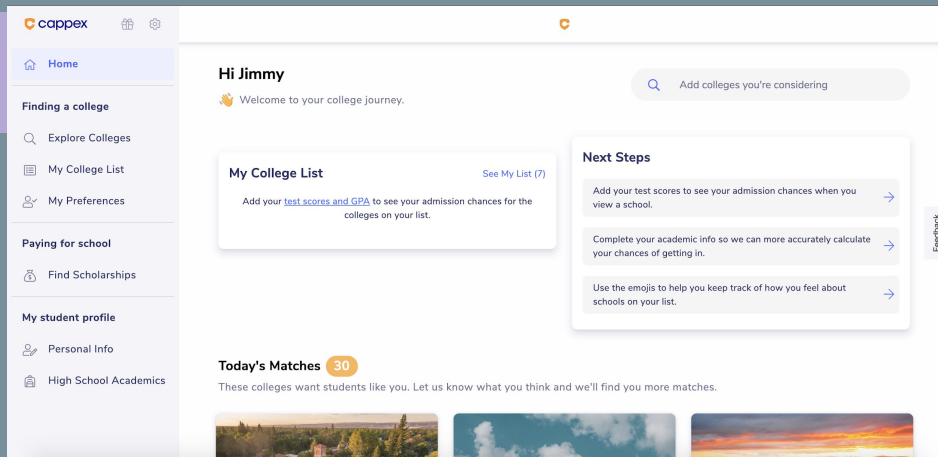
<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses/visit-uc/>

**QuestBridge:**

<https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students>

**uAspire:**

<https://www.uaspire.org/>



# QUESTIONS? :)



Students, write your response!



# FEEDBACK ON OUR WORKSHOP

Please complete the [Feedback Survey](#) for a chance to win a GrubHub voucher.

GRUBHUB

