



I'm New to This, Where Do I Start?

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First, Breath. Next, Reflect

- Who were you before you came to AHA? How have you grown?
- What have you accomplished or overcome that makes you feel proud?
- What environments or situations cause you to struggle most?
- What topics, subjects, questions consistently grab your attention?
- What are you passionate about? What subjects disinterest you?
- Where have you excelled?
- Who do you want to be in the future?





Assemble Your Dream Team



My Dream Team:

- Me
- Parents, Guardians, Siblings
- Ms. Kjorstad, Ms. Proctor
- College Admissions Counselors

Know the Terms

Institutions

- Public
- Private
- Liberal Arts, Faith Based
- Community College

Application

- Early Action (EA)
- Early Decision (ED)
- Rolling Admission
- Regular Decision
- Direct Entry

Testing

- Test Optional
- Test Blind

Financial Aid

- FAFSA
- CSS Profile
- Merit Scholarship
- Grants
- Need Based Aid



Ask Questions

- What is your timeline for admission, scholarship, financial aid?
- Tell me more about...
- How many students stay on campus on weekends?
- How do you support students who are undecided?
- How do your students get involved outside of the classroom?
- Where is the closest Target?



Take Inventory

Emotion-based checklist items:

- Do I feel like I can be 100% myself here?
- Will the professors know me by name (is that important to me)?
- Is this community too small?
- Will I get lost in the crowd?
- I have no idea what I want to study, how will I be supported?
- Will I feel comfortable asking for help?

Concrete checklist items:

- Student population
- Location
 - (urban, rural, distance from home)
- Areas of expertise
- Academic experience
 - (class size, access to faculty/advisors)
- Campus experience
 - (athletics, community)



Take Action:

- Communicate regularly with your parent/guardian
- Students: Be kind to your parents & guardians.
- Parents: Remember this is a big deal for your student and they're overwhelmed.

- Set up a separate college-specific e-mail account
- Begin keeping a document of accomplishments & activities
- Keep a document or spreadsheet with important & time sensitive information
 - Application & Scholarship deadlines
 - Application requirements / mid-50%
 - Costs
 - Visit dates & post-visit impressions
 - Contact Person
- Utilize your resources & team
- Proofread
- Keep being yourself

