Lesson 8

# College Application: *Coach Guide*

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| Learning Goals1. Students will understand the timeline of applying to college
2. Students will identify the traits that colleges look for in applicants
3. Students will understand each section of a college application
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## Introduction (~5 minutes)

* **Welcome your class back to Beaver Hangouts**
	+ Recap your week as a college student and ask your class if they’ve done anything interesting lately.
* **Introduce the lesson**
	+ Talk to your students about your experience applying to college. Even though it feels far away, it’s never too early to start thinking about the process.
	+ Start by talking about each year in high school and what you did then to prepare for the application process. Once you get to senior year, give them a brief overview of the application timeline. Focus on when you started researching schools, how you decided which schools to apply to, and when you started / submitted your applications.

## Think, Pair, Share! (~10 minutes)

* **What do colleges look for?**
	+ Have students get into pairs or small groups. Ask them to brainstorm as many responses as possible to this question: *What does it take to get into college?* Emphasize that students are to think creatively, and think back on their own knowledge or previous lessons.
	+ Have students share responses. In your discussion, cover the necessity of:
		- Academics
			* Coursework, test scores (SAT, ACT), GPA
		- Extracurricular Activities
			* Sports, clubs, drama, community service, etc.
		- Personal
			* What makes each student unique?

## Activity 1 (~15 minutes)

* **College Application**
	+ Now that students know what colleges look for, we’re going to look at a college application and see where those categories fit.
	+ Ask students to take out the Common Application handout. Explain that many schools now use this online application, which is standard all across the country.
	+ Go through the application with the students, making sure they understand what each section entails. Encourage students to fill out as many sections as they can.
	+ Ask students what they can do in high school in order to complete the application with the best information. For example:
		- What kind of courses can you take to be a more competitive candidate?
		- What merit groups can you join to put under the “honors” section?
		- What extracurricular activities can you join?
		- For all of these, when should you start working towards these goals?

## Closing/Assignment (~5 minutes)

* **Wrap-up**
	+ Leave some time for students to ask you questions