Lesson 8

# College Application: *Coach Guide*

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| Learning Goals  1. 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 |

## 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