

T H E
7 **DEADLY**
SINS
OF
COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

BY ANTHONY - JAMES GREEN

WWW.TEACHYOURSELFTHESAT.COM

So you're starting the college journey?

When handled well, applying to college can be simple, stress-free, and successful. Unfortunately, for most college applicants, the admissions process is anything but easy.

Why?

Almost ALL college applicants commit the same “deadly sins” - mistakes that turn the college application process from a breeze into a nightmare.

If you search “college application mistakes” on Google, you’ll find an overwhelming amount of advice on the *administrative* mistakes that people make. While there are tens of thousands of articles on the topic, you can get a quick summary by reading the following checklist:

- ✍ Make sure you use proper grammar and spelling in your application
- ✍ Make sure all the handwriting in your application is legible
- ✍ Make sure you submit your applications *on time* or they will not be reviewed
- ✍ Make sure to fill out ALL required information
- ✍ Make sure to put the proper name of each school in each application (nothing worse than saying “the reason you want to go to Harvard” to Davidson...)
- ✍ Make sure you actually **SUBMIT** your online applications - don’t just fill them out and save them
- ✍ Signing all the required signature lines
- ✍ Using a silly or ridiculous email address (JustinBieberLuvR4U@aol.com is not going to impress admissions committees)

Believe it or not, plenty of students each year make all of the mistakes above, forgetting to even **submit** their applications or to fill in all the required fields.

However, as damning as these mistakes can be, they’re small beans compared to the *fundamental* mistakes that most students and parents make during the application process.

There are seven FUNDAMENTAL ERRORS that prevent most applications from being accepted, and they have NOTHING to do with administrative mistakes.

The main problem?

There is so much bad college advice out there that most parents, well-meaning and aiming for the most ambitious schools possible, actually **SABOTAGE their children’s admissions chances by committing **ANY ONE** of the 7 following mistakes:**

While most parents make a combination of many of the 7 mistakes below, even **one** can completely derail your chances of admission.

Read through the following guide and take notes - this information was put together by working with hundreds of students one-on-one, interviewing some of the best college consultants in the country, and looking at admissions trends for the 100 most competitive schools in the country.

By the time you're finished reading this guide, you'll know how to put together a better college application than 99% of the students you're competing against. Just be sure to **act on this information** - it won't do you any good unless you put it into practice.

Deadly Sin #1: Starting Too Late

For whatever insane reason, many families start the “college process” about halfway through Junior year. Because most colleges recommend that this is when students “start thinking about college,” and because most schools have extremely limited college advisory capabilities, this is a common, and extremely damaging, trend.

Starting to think about college this late in the game is *terrible* for two very distinct reasons:

1. There is FAR too much to do in this little time.

If you want to put together a competitive application, here’s a small taste of what you’ll need to accomplish by your deadlines:

- ✍ Write all your essays
- ✍ Select all your schools
- ✍ Fill out all applications
- ✍ Prepare for and take the SAT
- ✍ Prepare for and take SAT 2s
- ✍ Select, prepare for, and take all AP classes and exams
- ✍ Request and secure all recommendations
- ✍ Fill out all supplemental essays
- ✍ Secure insider liaisons at all schools
- ✍ Go to college visits and interviews
- ✍ Keep your grades as high as possible
- ✍ -Attend to all extracurriculars and enhance them for better admissions chances

If you think you’ll be able to do all of this in less than a year...you’re in trouble. It can be done, but it is essential that you start the process *now*. If you have less than a year until deadlines are due, get moving IMMEDIATELY. When you finish this guide, **start**. Whether your child is a freshman, a sophomore, or a junior, it doesn’t matter. The sooner you start, the better.

2. If you wait too long, you’ll select terrible colleges, and you won’t have the time to create the “specialist applications” necessary to get into them.

When it comes to admissions, half the game is simply selecting the right schools. The other half is *tailoring your story and your application to fit them*.

Colleges aren't concerned with whether your child is "good" - they care about whether your child is good for them.

Selecting the right schools and altering your application to entice their admissions committees isn't just sound advice - it is ESSENTIAL to admissions. As I'll soon show you, failing to select the right school or tailoring your application to match them will result in a giant pile of rejections and a miserable Senior year.

Doing this takes time. Start now. **When you rush your college preparation process, you rush your college *selection* process. *BIG mistake...***

Deadly Sin #2: Picking the Wrong Schools

If you want to get into a good college, you need to pick the right college. This seemingly simple advice is ignored by almost every single college applicant.

Ask most Juniors where they want to go, and they'll say something along the lines of: "Well, I'll try for Brown and Yale, and then...I dunno....maybe USC as a safety school or something?"

First of all, **no school in the US News and World Report's top 25 is a "safety school," or anywhere CLOSE TO IT.**

More importantly, **picking schools based purely on rank is just about THE dumbest thing you can possibly do** (for more reasons than one).

I know that most hyper-competitive parents and students don't want to hear this, but remember:

You will spend 4 years of your life at college - make sure it is the RIGHT FIT.

I went to Columbia University, ranked as the #4 university in America. I chose this school over other options because *it had a high ranking*. The problem? *It was an absolutely TERRIBLE fit for me*. I was pretty miserable there. I thrive in small, close-knit, attentive academic environments with intimately familiar student bodies. Columbia is just about the polar opposite of this environment in every way.

I had fun, learned a lot, made great friends, and used the degree to enhance my career, but I'll tell you right now: *there were a lot of places where I would have had more fun, learned a lot more, and used my education in a more targeted way to enhance my career (i.e. I love business, and Columbia has no business or advertising/marketing major).*

How do you know which schools are right for you? While whole books could be written on the subject (and many of them have), it really boils down to one word:

RESEARCH

The more you learn about a school, the better an idea you'll have of whether or not it's the right fit for you. Look into a school's:

- ✍ Academic programs
- ✍ Strengths and weaknesses
- ✍ Special extracurricular programs
- ✍ Majors and minors offered
- ✍ Class size
- ✍ Student life and atmosphere

- ✍ Demographics and diversity
- ✍ Location and nearby geographic opportunities
- ✍ Job placement rate

These will give you a much better idea of what the school is *actually like*, rather than *what number is attached to the school*.

The same student is going to have VERY different impressions of MIT and Amherst - they're both "top ten" schools in their respective fields, but they are meant for entirely different types of people.

***When you purchase The 90 Day SAT Prescription, you'll gain access to buyer-only college consulting and selection resources not available anywhere else. However, even if you decide not to go with The Prescription, I hope you take this with you:

The more time and effort that you spend researching and selecting the appropriate schools, the more happy you'll be over the next four years of your life, the more you'll end up learning, and the more money you'll end up making.

"Yeah, yeah, personal happiness personal shmappiness - I want to get into a top-ten school!"

Well, even if you don't think that college should serve a higher purpose than a line item on your resume, you're forgetting something else:

If you apply to the wrong school for your "student type," you'll have just about a 0% chance of getting in.

In other words, it's not just that different types of students will like different schools:

Different types of schools like different types of students!!!

MIT is *not* looking for the same people as Dartmouth, and Dartmouth is NOT looking for the same people as Pomona. None of these schools are looking for the same people as Harvard, or Yale, or Bob's College of Knowledge.

What you need to realize is that *if you apply to the wrong schools, it doesn't matter how "good" your application is - you'll never get in anyway.*

Applying to the wrong schools is like trying to make friends at Red Sox stadium with a Yankees uniform on - you might be a great person, but you're still not going to get very far.

At this point, you might be asking yourself, "well, *what type of student is my child?*"

If you're asking that question, there's a big problem.

Colleges don't accept "student #45,678" - they accept very *specific types of people that they're specifically looking for.*

If you're not one of them, you're dead in the water. With that in mind, here's the next mistake that almost every applicant makes:

Deadly Sin #3: Failing to Craft a Story and an Area of Expertise

If you've already listened to my Parents-Only webinar, [5 Things Colleges DON'T Want You to Know About Admissions](#) or read the free transcript (and if you haven't, I very highly recommend listening to it by clicking the link to the left or visiting this URL:

www.TeachYourselfTheSAT.com/Parents

Then you already know one of the main keys to college admission: being a specialist.

Remember: **colleges don't want well-rounded students - they want well-rounded classes.**

No college is interested in a student who is "pretty good at lots of different things." Colleges want to stuff their rosters full of EXPERT SPECIALISTS who can dominate their own fields and add to the college's renown.

Colleges want superstar athletes, award-winning writers, head editors of school newspapers, class presidents, mathletes, renowned instrumentalists, patent-owning scientists, and *any other type of student with a clearly identified area of mastery and a story to match it.*

If your child is a "pretty good athlete" with "decent grades and test scores" who is on a couple of different clubs (but doesn't run any of them), does community service some of the time, and is "somewhat interested in both business and computing" (but has never actually done anything to pursue those interests), he has a roughly 0% chance of getting into a top college or university.

Zero.

Colleges aren't looking for mediocre "Jacks of all trades" - they're looking for a dream team of "Jacks of one trade" that they can assemble into an all-powerful graduating class full of millionaires, celebrities, and big donors.

Here's the really big issue: **developing a specialty takes time.** You can't just "decide that you're a specialist." Actions, experiences, and qualifications speak louder than words. If you fake a specialty, colleges WILL sniff it out, and you WILL NOT get in.

You need to start developing your child's specialty TODAY.

This isn't optional.

If you can't fill this blank, your chances of college admission are virtually non-existent:

You should accept my child because he/she is an excellent _____.

One word. What is it? Writer? Mathematician? Businessman? Author? Leader? Philanthropist? Athlete? Instrumentalist? Scientist?

Here's the other issue:

Even if your child does have a well-developed specialty, **you are going to fail unless EVERY facet of your application reflects that specialty!** This is where “crafting a story” comes into play.

Extracurriculars. Essay and supplementary essays. SAT 2s. Awards won. Recommendations. Liaison recommendations (explained shortly). Grades. APs. The list goes on.

You can't just **say** that your child is “an excellent writer” - you need to **prove** that he is. You do that with As in English, published papers, experience on the school newspaper, fantastic essays, writing awards won, and **an application to a school with a fantastic writing program.**

***If you're not sure how to select the right schools for your child's specialty, pick a specialty in the first place, or create an application which reflects it, [The 90 Day SAT Prescription's Parents' Manual](#), bonuses, and buyer-only materials will show you how to do it step-by-step, with advice from some of the most renowned college consultants in the country.

A lot of people hope that their applications are simply “good enough” because they have “a lot of things going for them” - that won't do. You don't need “a lot of things going for you” - you need ONE thing going for you non-stop.

This is what separates winning applications from losing ones.

By this point (and especially if you listened to my [parents-only webinar](#)), you should realize that there's a significant amount of work to be done if you want to craft a **strong application that appeals specifically to your target schools.**

You can't just pick schools because they're “good” - they have to *want your type of student.*

Yet we're not done. Just because you prove that you're a good fit for a school doesn't mean that they'll accept you, for one very important reason:

Schools won't let you in if they don't think you're going to attend.

Which brings us to the next (and perhaps the *most* common) application mistake:

Deadly Sin #4: Not Proving Interest in the Schools to Which You Apply

When I applied to college, I got into both Columbia and Cornell, two Ivy League universities. However, I also got **rejected by multiple schools that weren't in the top 50 US universities.**

How does that happen? How did schools so much “worse” than Columbia reject me while Columbia and Cornell let me in?

Because they didn't think there was even a 1% chance that I'd attend.

Colleges are selfish. They care about their statistics and their rankings, and they care about them a lot.

Arguably **the most damning college statistic is a bad ratio of admittees to attendees!**

Why is Harvard Harvard? Because for they reject practically everyone who applies. They're very selective. Selectivity and applicant/acceptances is one of the most important college metrics, and the one that everyone seems to focus on. But there's another incredibly important ratio that no one seems to pay attention to:

Admittees / Attendees

If this number is too large, college rankings will drop. Additionally, it'll cause massive administrative headaches for the college.

Think about it - if a school lets in 10,000 people, and 5 of them decide to go, what does it say about the school? That it stinks, that's what. Harvard is Harvard not only because they let in very few people, but because *almost everyone they let in attends*. Schools avidly try to avoid letting people in who they don't think will attend. Therefore,

IT IS YOUR JOB TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY SCHOOL YOU APPLY TO THINKS YOU'LL GO IF YOU'RE ACCEPTED.

Even if you're a really strong applicant, no school will let you in if they think it's obvious that you won't be going.

In my case, I was a nationally ranked crew recruit with near-perfect SAT scores coming from one of the top prep schools in the country. I knew nothing about the “lower tier” schools I applied to, didn't make mention of them in my applications, and never went for visits. Guess how likely they thought I was to attend? And guess what happened?

Again, let me repeat: **if you don't sell your desire to go to a school, they'll reject you out of pure self-interest.**

A lot of people are “me, me, me” on their applications, and in many ways, that's a good thing - if you're not selling yourself, you're not going to get in. However, that's not enough. You also have to be “you, you, you” when it comes to the colleges you're applying to.

Think about it: if lower-tier colleges are rejecting qualified applicants, imagine what top-tier colleges will do if they “smell a rat.”

Doing this is simpler than you might think. All you really need to do:

- A) Research the school.** Learn about it. Figure out a bunch of specific reasons why you want to go to THAT school (and no, “you’re ranked well in US News and World Report” does NOT count as one of these reasons). If you don’t have a list of specific reasons why you want to go to a school, why are you applying in the first place?
- B) If possible, visit the school and interview there.** Interviews go a long way toward this cause - if you interview with a school, the school sees you as more of a person and less of a number. Additionally, **the interview is really the time to sell your desire to go to a particular school.** You’re automatically in a position of believability - you’re on their campus, and you’re therefore proving that they’re not just a random line item you picked out of a hat. Additionally, it’s the time to get across your enthusiasm, praising the incredible things you’ve just seen while visiting.
- C) Use the college’s supplementary essays to hint that the college is the right fit for you.** Are you a business fanatic? Does the college you’re applying to have a great business program? Perhaps, in your “one thing I’d do to change the world” supplemental essay, you could talk about leveraging that school’s business program to reach out to inner city kids and help them to start their own businesses.

Are you a big artist? Does the school you’re applying to have an art program? Then in your supplemental essay on “a person who influenced me,” perhaps a notable artist graduate of that school might be in order?

You get the idea.

If you use your supplemental essays well, and if you’re able to pass along your enthusiasm in your interview (most colleges allow for out-of-state interviews, so you don’t necessarily need to travel far to arrange one), you stand a much better chance of getting in.

Also, this ties back into something we discussed earlier:

The ultimate “red flag” for most colleges: You aren’t a good fit.

Remember Deadly Sin #2 (not picking the right schools for you)? Well, if you apply somewhere that’s clearly not a match, you’ll be in the rejection pile in a heartbeat.

If you pick the right schools (schools that match your unique capabilities and interests) and if you convince them that you’ll go if accepted, you’re starting to do things right.

However, even then, there are some big mistakes that you can make. One of them has to do directly with the idea of “lack of research and interest.” Here it is:

Deadly Sin #5: Failing to Find Liaisons and Forgetting

That College is a Crapshoot

As you learned in my parents-only webinar, [5 Things Colleges DON'T Want You to Know About Admissions](#), colleges are selfish. More importantly, they have very limited resources when it comes to evaluating applications. As a result, they take shortcuts. The most common shortcut:

Colleges eliminate most applications before they're ever even reviewed based purely on grades and test scores.

If your child doesn't have the grades and test scores that match a particular college's expectations, his application won't even get looked at. Colleges aren't going to learn all about your child, read his essay, watch his DVD, *then* find out that he has terrible SAT scores. They look at the scores and the grades first as a *shortcut*. If they don't stack up, your child has a 0% chance of admission, regardless of how strong the rest of his application is. **Unless.....**

If you can find a college "liaison," you'll get your application reviewed, EVEN IF you don't have the scores and grades necessary.

I'll fill you in on what a liaison is very shortly. However, I want to make a quick point:

If you don't have the grades or scores necessary, you need one hell of a liaison.

But, assuming that you do have the grades and scores necessary (and I hope you will), there's still another issue:

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ARE A CRAPSHOOT

One of my students recently got into Brown, Stanford, and Amherst, but rejected from Duke, Williams, and Dartmouth. Why? *At face value, there is literally no explanation.*

She was totally qualified for all of the above schools (4.0 GPA, 2280 SAT scores, head editor of her school newspaper, multiple articles published in major US newspapers and magazines, founded a charity for improved literacy and writing skills in her community and helped it to raise over \$75,000), but yet she still got rejected by multiple schools ranked LOWER than Yale and Stanford on the almighty

All of these schools have strong liberal arts departments and would love to have a girl like her attend. But she had something going for her at Brown, Stanford, and Amherst that she DID NOT have going for her at Duke, Williams, and Dartmouth: **liaisons**.

Here's all you need to know:

If you don't have someone speaking on your behalf to the admissions committee, you are JUST A NUMBER.

Admissions committees don't care about you. They don't have the time or attention to do so. I'm not saying they're heartless - I'm saying that they have to sort through thousands of applications in a short time period, and they want to get it done quickly and efficiently.

If your application is just a folder full of paper, then that's all you are to admissions officers.

I don't care how amazing you are - if there's no one behind your application, you're just another stack of papers.

So, whether you have the grades and scores or not, there's something you should realize right away:

If you can get someone at the school to speak on your behalf, you are VASTLY going to improve your chances of admission.

This is a human process. Humans relate to humans. If someone the admissions office knows, likes, and trusts pays them a visit on your behalf, it will make a big difference.

My student had the head editor of the one of the above school's newspapers speak with the admissions officers to this effect:

"Listen, A_____ is really great, and it would make a big difference to the newspaper next year if she came on board. Can you earmark her application and make sure to give it an extra look? I'd hate to miss out on her."

And....voila! She was in. Would she have gotten in otherwise? Maybe. But did she get into *every* school where she had someone speak on her behalf to the admissions committee? Yes. Did she get rejected from multiple schools without liaisons? Yes.

If you have sub-par scores and grades, you need to have a really powerful liaison.

Certain "inside men" are more powerful than others. My college experience is a prime example. I was an extremely good rower in high school - crew coaches have a lot of sway at the Ivies, and at Columbia and Cornell, the coaches spoke on my behalf with the admissions offices. As a result, I got into both schools even though I had really bad grades. I had great test scores, but my grades were not nearly good enough on their own to get me into either school.

Division I varsity coaches, extremely heavy donations, and other "recruitment rods" are the best liaisons in the world. But they're not easy to get.

Unless you're a celebrity, a recruited athlete, an award-winning musician/writer, or a highly sought-after minority (this last one is becoming less and less powerful), you won't be able to secure one of these "mega liaisons." **This means that you probably need incredible grades and test scores regardless of who you have speaking on your behalf.**

If you're the #1 recruited quarterback in the country, you can send colleges a bowl of jello instead of an application - you'll still get in. For everyone else, listen carefully:

The only way to ensure that college is not a crapshoot is to ensure that **SOMEONE is speaking on your behalf to the admissions committee. Who? That's up to you to find out.**

If you're really into philanthropy, contact the heads of the school's biggest charity organizations, share your plans with them, and then see if they can put in a good word. If you're really into computer science, see if you can chat with the head of the Comp-Sci department.

This is why extensive research is so important. If you don't know anything about the schools to which you're applying, you *certainly* won't know **anyone** at the schools to which you're applying, and that's a big disadvantage.

If you give a great interview, and you have your interviewer, the head of a certain department, and even the head of an intramural sports team all go to the admissions office and ask them to give you an extra look, it is an **enormous** advantage.

Colleges like to maintain that "who you know doesn't matter." That is a hilarious bunch of **rubbish**.

If you think that who you know doesn't matter, then I suggest living somewhere other than under a rock.

Get the grades. Get the scores. Specialize. Then, do your research and find a liaison.

***Buyers of The 90 Day SAT Prescription get free access to my guide, co-written with some of the best college consultants in the world, on how to secure a liaison and use him/her as leverage for your application.

Before we get into **the** biggest sin of college applications, there's another thing I can't forget to mention that you absolutely **MUST** not do:

Deadly Sin #6: Including “Fluff” (i.e. Bulls\$%&) in Your Application

Let me make something clear right now:

College admissions officers have seen it all.

Do you have some sort of “sneaky” way of “padding your application?” Well, like everyone else in the universe, admissions officers don’t like the feeling of being lied to and deceived, and if they feel that there’s even an *ounce* of BS in your application, they’re going to kick it to the curb.

When I used to run my tutoring firm, I’d get multiple applications a day from aspiring tutors. Many of them would start off well - the applicants would have near-perfect SAT scores, extensive experience, impressive educations, etc. But then, I’d see something like the following under the “experience” column:

Job #3: Starbucks Barista. Learned how to approach and demonstrably exceed the expectations of others, fulfill customer demand, manage an intensive workflow situation, overcome obstacles....

COME ON.

Lines like this in a resume make applicants look foolish and ridiculous. More importantly, and far worse, they make the applicants look like LIARS and BULLS&%\$ERS.

Lines like this *insult my intelligence*. There’s nothing wrong with being a barista - it’s good work experience, and I personally believe that everyone should experience working behind a counter at some point in their lives - it builds character. However, barista experience isn’t going to help you be an SAT tutor, and suggesting that it is just makes you look like (A) a liar, (B) a jerk, or perhaps both.

When it comes to your college applications, PLEASE do not include BS qualifications and “experiences” and think that the admissions officers won’t notice.

As I said above, you need a specialty, but you can’t just **say** you have it. You need to prove it. Joining a club 1 month before you apply to college does *not* prove your interest in that club (and in general, club membership is totally useless unless you’re in a leadership position).

Furthermore, colleges don’t want Jacks of all trades - they want specialists. Adding a random line item onto your application won’t help you, but it does have the potential to make you look foolish.

Want some examples I’ve seen in actual applications?

Exhibit A:

“Community Service: Habitat for Humanity, Barbados - helped the poor, learned key skills in teamwork and cooperation, and gave back to the human race (sic).”

Translation: My parents paid for me to go to Barbados on a spring break trip, and I spent an afternoon hammering a few boards together while I talked to my friends.

Sorry....your lavish vacation-masked-as-community-service is fooling nobody. You'd be better off just writing, "Habitat for Humanity, Spring, 2012" with zero explanation than to try and "sell" this experience as something meaningful.

Exhibit B:

"Extracurriculars: Model UN. Dates: [2 months earlier-present]. Attended multiple meetings - learned diplomacy, debate, and international relations."

Translation: My mom/counselor told me I needed to join a club, so I went to Model UN a few times before I applied so that I wouldn't have to leave this field blank.

If you're not in a leadership position, clubs don't mean much. Furthermore, if you joined 2 months earlier, the transparency is painful. This is why you need to start early - so you can build an actual track record of meaningful activities in the specialty to which you aspire.

Colleges want SPECIALISTS - trying to "add spice" to your resume by throwing in ridiculous stuff like this just waters everything down and makes you look ridiculous. If you want to join model UN for fun, by all means, go for it - but don't try to sell it on your application.

Exhibit C:

"Sports: Manager, Girl's Soccer Team (writer's note: this was a boy's application). Gained leadership skills, inventory management abilities, and learned to mediate disputes (sic)."

Translation: I am a highschool boy who likes watching girls play soccer, feeding them oranges during halftime, and relentlessly trying to get a date with one of them because I can't play football.

Again, *there's nothing wrong with doing extra activities here or there, but **don't try to sell them as if they're actual qualifications!!!***

Remember, again: schools want specialists, not "well rounded" people who do lots of random junk all the time. Just follow my golden rule for extras like this:

When in doubt, toss it out.

"Giving blood one time" in the Community Service field *won't* get you into college, but it *will* make you look like a desperate applicant with nothing going for him.

If community service is your thing, then by all means, *play it up!* Talk about the money you've raised, the help you've given people, the organization you've helped to bolster, and the community service organizations you plan on joining at the college. But if it's not, don't make pathetic excuses for community service just so you have something to say. Leave the field blank - you'll be better off.

Now that that's off my chest (phew), there's one more thing I need to address. It is, without a doubt, THE biggest mistake that everyone makes when applying to colleges, and could be the single largest factor in admissions:

Deadly Sin #7: Forgetting That Admissions are About

COMPARISON, and NOT about Absolute Value

Deadly Sin #7: Forgetting That Admissions are About COMPARISON, and NOT about Absolute Value

When you apply to college, you're not applying in a vacuum. **You are competing against every other applicant.**

Imagine applying for a job with 5 DWIs on your record. You might think, "Hey, you know what, I might have been drunk behind the wheel a couple of times, but I mean, who cares - I'm still a pretty great applicant." Just one thing you're forgetting:

There are going to be plenty of other applicants WITHOUT DWI CHARGES that you need to compete against. Someone even 90% as good as you without a DWI will be a heck of a lot more appealing than you.

The same goes for college admissions. Just replace "DWI" with "bad grades" or "bad test scores" and you get the picture.

"Oh, Johnny might have pretty bad SAT scores, but he's such a good kid - once they take a look, they'll let him in anyway."

NOPE.

Remember: **This isn't about you. It's about you vs. everyone else.**

Think of applications as a "scaled test" - if you have weak applications, but so does everyone else, you'll be okay. However, if you're competing against a strong pool of applicants, and you have a glaring weakness, you're cooked.

To avoid this mistake in full, you need to know just one thing:

Comparison is strongest in terms of grades and test scores. If you don't have strong scores and grades, you'll be comparing yourself to people who do - and your application will end up in the trash basket.

If you have bad scores or bad grades, don't expect to get in unless you have an all-powerful liaison (and even then, he or she might have a lot of trouble).

There's nothing more to it than that. Remember: *colleges review grades and scores BEFORE they review entire applications. If you don't have good grades and scores, colleges will NEVER EVEN LOOK AT YOUR APPLICATION.*

Sure, your child might be awesome - but if his grades or test scores don't stack up to the competition, you either need a liaison, or you need to apply somewhere else.

Rather than panic about this, just improve your grades and test scores!!!

These are the “meat and potatoes” of your application. You need to be a specialist to get into any competitive college, but most competitive colleges won’t find out that you’re a specialist unless your grades and scores stack up to the competition.

***If you’re looking for the GUARANTEED way to get the best possible SAT scores in 90 days, scroll to the bottom to learn more about [The 90 DAY SAT Prescription](#) while my special offers are still valid.

There’s simply no avoiding it: if you don’t have the scores and the grades, you’re in bad, bad shape.

Again, this comes down to the issue of selection. I actually heard one parent say:

“My child has a B- average and a 1700 on his SAT - we’re going to apply to Brown as a “reach school” and Vanderbilt as a “safety.”

Unfortunately for that child (whom I never had the opportunity to tutor), Brown isn’t a “reach” - reaching implies that you have a chance of touching it. Brown is an impossibility. So is Vanderbilt.

The college game is getting more competitive every single day. If you don’t have *top-tier* grades and scores, you need to lower your expectations.

If you want to get into the nation’s most competitive schools, realize that you can’t just have good grades and scores - they must be *better than the grades and scores of the students you’re applying against*.

If you haven’t started prepping for the SAT yet, start. Now. And if your grades are low, you need to bring them up IMMEDIATELY while there’s still time.

***Buyers of The 90 DAY SAT Prescription get buyer-only access to some of the best study tips, homework advice, and grade improvement strategies available anywhere from our partner, Edu-Nova, which have been proven to improve GPAs by over 1.2 points in as little as 45 days.

The college application process can be easy - if you let it be. Just remember:

1. Start IMMEDIATELY to get the upper hand and handle all the necessary steps.
2. Spend the time necessary to research possible schools and find the right matches.
3. Start working on your specialization *now*, and craft all your activities around it.
4. Sell your desire to each school you apply to.
5. Find an “inside man” at each school to help you “get in good” with the admissions committee.
6. Don’t lie, embellish, or “fluff” your application in any way. Keep it honest and straightforward.
7. Do *everything in your power* to improve your grades and test scores.

If you do all of the above, you’ll be ahead of the game. I’ve seen hundreds of students use the above advice to get into the nation’s most selective colleges and universities. I’ve also seen thousands more ignore this advice and wind up in the rejection pile.

With all this in mind:

Take Care of the Most Important Things First With a Special Offer on My New Program,

"The 90 Day SAT Prescription"

Without the fundamentals, the college application process is a nightmare. Trying to write an application on top of poor grades and test scores is like trying to build a skyscraper on top of quicksand...

When you have strong grades and test scores, you have a foundation strong enough to build a powerful college application.

After working one-on-one with over 330 students, and achieving an average SAT score improvement *nearly 400 points*, I've learned *the* methods, strategies, and action steps necessary to take *any* student's SAT scores to the next level.

Don't waste your money on ineffective classroom courses, under-qualified tutors, and half-baked software programs.

Because of my track record, parents pay me \$500/hour to work with their children on a one-on-one basis, and I'm booked over 18 months in advance. I turn down nearly 10 people a day looking for my services, and this overwhelming demand has led me to create

the world's first and only self-study program for the SAT which utilizes the exact methods and strategies I teach my students to give them industry-beating results.

What is the 90 Day SAT Prescription?

I have processes for everything I do. All my students are put through the same step-by-step program, which is rigid enough to guarantee results, yet flexible enough to account for each student's individual strengths, weaknesses, and learning styles.

The 90 Day SAT Prescription is the "map" which I use with all my students. This 90-day program shows your student what to do, how, and when to get a **guaranteed, massive score improvement**.

I'm not a fan of "suggestions" - if I'm working with an expert, I want them to tell me *exactly* what to do in order to get the results I'm looking for. The 90 Day SAT Prescription is just that - a *prescription for incredible SAT scores*. Simply do what I say, when I say to do it, and you'll get the results you're looking for.

When you go to a doctor's office, you don't want the doctor to say: "well, there are a couple things you can do to cure your illness - so, look them over, and let me know which one you think is best." You want the doctor to use his expertise and define a **precise course of action based on his overwhelming experience**.

After walking hundreds of students through the SAT prep process and achieving world-renowned results, I have created that course of action. Consider me your "test prep doctor" - I know what works, what students need to learn (and in what order), and precisely what they need to do to get the results they're looking for.

This entire program **costs less than one hour of my time, and is GUARANTEED to bring you application-altering SAT score improvements.**

The 90-Day SAT Prescription is composed of three elements:

- 1. The Prescription.** The Prescription is a 90-day action plan. Each day, you simply do exactly what your prescription sheet tells you to do. Nothing more, nothing less.
- 2. The Prescription Workbook.** Hundreds of pages of guides, practice problems, strategy sheets, and more to supplement the Prescription program and give you the insider information that was formerly available only to my clients at \$500/hour.
- 3. The Parents' Manual.** Parents are an integral part of the test prep and college admissions process. I've created a step-by-step manual for parents which shows them exactly how to enhance their children's results, keep them motivated, and continue the college application process with ease and success.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Buyers of my SAT Prescription are also given access to insider-only guides, resources, discounts, and more from the best educators, college consultants, and college insiders in the world.

If you want the only GUARANTEED way to build a solid college foundation for your child, there's no time to waste.

The sooner you get started with my program, the sooner your child will have the Ivy-level SAT scores he or she needs to gain admission to the world's most competitive universities.

To learn more, and place your order while there's still time, visit:

www.TeachYourselfTheSAT.com/Order

P.S.

*****Readers of my guide get \$20 off my program*****

For the next month, readers of this guide who enter the code "7DEADLYSINS" at checkout will receive \$20 off the price of their SAT Prescription program.

P.P.S.

Thank you for reading my guide! I hope you'll take the information above and use it to have a happier, more successful, and more stress-free college journey.

Thanks again for reading, good luck to you, and be in touch if you have any questions or need anything whatsoever.

Best Wishes,

Anthony-James Green

www.TheTestPrepPro.com

New York's Best SAT Tutor

Founder, The Test Prep Method