

CLASS OF 2019

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT – COLLEGE COUNSELING & SENIOR ENGLISH

1. **Summer Reading for Senior English**

Read thoughtfully & be prepared to work with *How to Read Literature Like a Professor Rev. Ed.* by Thomas C. Foster

2. **Develop your College List (submit hard copy to College Counselor by 1st day of school)**

- **Clearly define the criteria that are important to you in the college search and conduct that search in earnest this summer.** Visit schools if possible, spend time on individual colleges' websites, google like crazy, and read, read, read (I recommend the Fiske Guide to Colleges & many books are available in the College Corner). Helpful websites include:

<http://www.unigo.com/colleges> <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search> <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
<http://www.youvisit.com/search> <https://colleges.niche.com/> and don't forget the college match feature on Naviance...

- **Guidelines for your college list:**

- 6 – 10 schools, spread across the 3 categories of selectivity (more than 10 is okay for now...but the goal is to narrow it to no more than 10 by the fall)
 - In most cases, categories are based on a comparison of your academic profile – grades & test scores – with the profile of the most recently admitted first-year class. The most selective schools in the country will always be considered Reach schools, no matter how strong the applicant profile.
 - You should have *at least* 2 Likely schools (aka safety), 2-3 Possible schools (targets), and 2-3 Reach schools on your list. Talk to your parents about finances. Complete financial aid calculators. If you don't qualify for need based aid, but would like merit options make sure your list reflects this. Consider including one TX school even if you don't want to stay in Texas.
- Fall in love with your list – including likely and possible schools – not just one particular school! Do an honest gut check – you need to be prepared for the scenario in which you get into only one school. Don't commit to a list until you know that you will be happy and satisfied with a *lone acceptance from any one of the schools on your list.*
- **Prepare a detailed rationale and plan (put it in writing) for each school that makes your list.**
 - Explain why you have chosen that school out of the thousands out there. Be specific and show that you've done your research. Your rationale must be more than merely location or reputation. Ultimately, this rationale prepares you for the "why us?" supplement or interview question. You're not locked into this list – you should continue to investigate schools and meet with reps who visit this fall, and you may end up adding/dropping some schools from your list.
 - Indicate chosen deadlines and plans for any early applications. (ED/REA/EA)
 - Identify scholarships at your schools for which you intend to apply, along with deadlines & special requirements.
 - Research interview options at each school on your list. Make note of deadlines and process.

3. **Turn in AT LEAST One of Your Primary Essays (Submit hard copies to College Counselor AND Mrs. Elizondo by 1st day of school. You will receive a grade on this essay so do your best!)**

See Common App and Apply TX prompts. Refer to essay writing presentation from our Essay brown bag (sent via email). If you're not applying to any Common App or Apply TX schools, use a prompt from one of the school-specific apps that you will be submitting. If not yet available on-line, call the admissions office and ask for the essay prompt(s). Write as many essays as you can- you'll thank me later.

4. **Finalize your College Resume (submit hard copy to College Counselor by 1st day of school)**

Update the document you worked on this spring to include summer activities and any new awards. Don't forget to add fall senior year activities/awards before submitting it to a college.