

## **COMMON MISTAKES WHEN APPLYING TO COLLEGE:**

1. Do NOT pretend to be someone who you are not. BE HONEST!
2. Do NOT neglect the “optional” personal statement. NOTHING IS OPTIONAL!
3. Do NOT write about the wrong school. When using generic essays, invest the time to learn about the school to which you are applying and CHECK YOUR WORK!
4. Do NOT send an admission representative an email to simply show INTEREST. Review the school’s website and tell the admission committee, through the application, how and why you see yourself as being a good match.
5. Do NOT send vague recommendation letters. The BEST recommendation letter will come from a teacher where the student worked extra hard to succeed; or from a club sponsor where the student demonstrated perseverance.
6. Do NOT be careless with social media. YES, THEY DO CHECK YOUR FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, etc. A student’s presence on the Internet matters and admission representatives encourage applicants to be cautious when sharing pictures, posts, tweets and videos. Many colleges interact with prospective applicants via Facebook and YouTube to provide information and answer questions. Many applicants will “tag” themselves in photos after they visit a campus, so it is not hard for an admission representative to view students’ profiles. All students should check their privacy settings – and if a student DOES NOT WANT THEIR MOTHER SEEING WHAT THEY POST ONLINE – it probably should not be public.
7. Do NOT USE SLANG in essays. Admission committees want to read grammatically correct essays that reflect upon a student’s personality. Texting slang such as, “LOL” or “TTYL” or “; )”, as well as emoticons, is inappropriate.
8. Do NOT disrespect college staff members. If you must call a university or college for clarification – and you become connected to the school’s support staff – treat them with RESPECT.
9. Do NOT MISS DEADLINES. Know when applications are due. Colleges and universities rarely make exceptions (unless there is a hurricane or snowstorm).
10. Do NOT apply to any school until you READ ALL THE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS that are posted on the school’s website. There is no excuse for leaving something out or not sending something that is required.