

## Cycle 1 – The right profile

**Activity 1.** Read the cartoon below. Why do you think the man did community service?



Is community service (or any other extracurricular activity) important to get into college in your home country?

**Activity 2.** What do you think is necessary in order to get into college in the US? Make a list of topics or characteristics that you consider important for a college candidate.

**Activity 3.** Now read the following text on “**how to be a desirable college applicant**”. Then, compare it to the topics you came up with in Activity 2. Is there any important topic you were not aware of?

**Have a good GPA in high school.** This doesn't necessarily mean that you have to take all Honors/AP/Community College classes, but taking those show the college that you like a challenge and you want learn at a faster .

**Get involved!** Colleges, especially elite colleges (Harvard, a Service Academy, Yale) aren't going to just accept you because you only have a 4.0GPA. They want to see your character and your willingness to become involved and help others. Joining clubs that are involved in school (Sports, Debate, Dance, Glee, Honor Society, you name it), or outside of school(Scouts, Church, Community Service, Part-Time Job) shows that you are willing to do other things than academics and you are a well-rounded person.

**Be a leader!** Don't just join activities, lead them! Being the leader shows colleges that you can take charge of something and make it do great things. This will also show that you can work with other

people to get things done. Running for Club Officer, Class Officer, ASB Officer, Sport Team Captain are all great examples. **Keep in mind that colleges want those students who can think critically.** They want the student who can pursue an idea, not the one who simply follows the rules and meets criteria. Colleges want the student who can think outside the box.

**Prepare yourself at a young age for the SAT, ACT, PSAT, and all other tests colleges want to look at.** Make sure that you get practice on these test through practice tests or books/programs that help you prepare for them. Also, take these test multiple times to get the best score. When looking at colleges, know what their scores are so you can aim for them.

**Do something that establishes you as special (in a good way).** When colleges look at applications, they want to see what makes you more special than the other 100 applications they receive.

**Establish good habits.** Don't drink, do drugs, smoke, or be lazy. Make good life choices everyday, and doing the other steps will be easy. If you do drugs or drinks, you are setting yourself up for eventual academic failure. Colleges want good, solid people.

### **Warnings**

- Don't overdo extra-curricular activities. Sure, you might be president of 3 clubs, but when your grades start falling to C's, it won't matter.
- Sports, unless you're very good, shouldn't be an extreme priority. School is the #1 priority.

**Activity 4.** Now think about how your college application would look like today. What areas would you need to improve at? Make a list.

**Activity 5.** For each area you mentioned in the previous activity, think of 2 or 3 actions you could take in order to improve your college application. You may exchange suggestions with your classmates.

## Cycle 2 – How to choose a college

**Activity 1.** Read the cartoon below. Then, make a list of topics that you think should be considered while deciding which college to apply to.



**Activity 2.** Watch the following video about “How to choose a college” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2ZmSVgkk5g>). It approaches the issue in a humorous way. Which of these advices do you think could be taken seriously?



Based on the video and on your brainstorming in Activity 1, make a list of topics that should be taken into consideration while choosing the right college.

**Activity 3.** Most people have heard about Ivy League Schools. However, you should also consider many other good institutions that might be right for your profile. Do some research on the schools in your state. Did you know about their existence? Does anyone seem to match your profile? Why?

**Activity 4.** Make a list of at least 3 in and out-of-state schools that you think are right for you / that you would like to attend. Make a presentation about each school explaining how it relates to your academic profile. At the end of the presentation, your peers will come up with questions and suggestions.