

College Acceptance Paper

The 40th anniversary edition of the classic Newbery Medal-winning title by beloved author Katherine Paterson, with brand-new bonus materials including an author's note by Katherine herself and a foreword by New York Times bestselling author Kate DiCamillo. Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs. It will take the love of his family and the strength that Leslie has given him for Jess to be able to deal with his grief. *Bridge to Terabithia* was also named an ALA Notable Children's Book and has become a touchstone of children's literature, as have many of Katherine Paterson's other novels, including *The Great Gilly Hopkins* and *Jacob Have I Loved*.

A professor of sociology at the University of California presents the findings of his survey of admissions at Princeton, revealing a century of exclusion that cuts to the core of the American experience, while raising important questions about the stratification of higher education in America. Reprint.

Offers tips on how to write meaningful essays for college admission applications. Includes sample essays.

Offers a step-by-step guide to the college application process with an analysis of the common application, a detailed study of application essays, and a look at common myths and misconceptions about the on-campus interview.

"The College Solution helps readers look beyond over-hyped admission rankings to discover schools that offer a quality education at affordable prices. Taking the guesswork out of saving and finding money for college, this is a practical and insightful must-have guide for every parent!" —Jaye J. Fenderson, *Seventeen's* College Columnist and Author, *Seventeen's Guide to Getting into College* "This book is a must read in an era of rising tuition and falling admission rates. O'Shaughnessy offers good advice with blessed clarity and brevity." —Jay Mathews, *Washington Post* Education Writer and Columnist "I would recommend any parent of a college-bound student read *The College Solution*." —Kal Chany, Author, *The Princeton Review's* *Paying for College Without Going Broke* "The College Solution goes beyond other guidebooks in providing an abundance of information about how to afford college, in addition to how to approach the selection process by putting the student first." —Martha "Marty" O'Connell, Executive Director, *Colleges That Change Lives* "Lynn O'Shaughnessy always focuses on what's in the consumer's best interest, telling families how to save money and avoid making costly mistakes." —Mark Kantrowitz, Publisher, *FinAid.org* and Author, *FastWeb College Gold* "An antidote to the hype and hysteria about getting in and paying for college! O'Shaughnessy has produced an excellent overview that demystifies the college planning process for students and families." —Barmak Nassirian, American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers For millions of families, the college planning experience has become extremely stressful. And, unless your child is an elite student in the academic top 1%, most books on the subject won't help you. Now, however, there's a college guide for everyone. In *The College Solution*, top personal finance journalist Lynn O'Shaughnessy presents an easy-to-use roadmap to finding the right college program (not just the most hyped) and dramatically reducing the cost of college, too. Forget the rankings! Discover what really matters: the quality and value of the programs your child wants and deserves. O'Shaughnessy uncovers "industry secrets" on how colleges actually parcel out financial aid—and how even "average" students can maximize their share. Learn how to send your kids to expensive private schools for virtually the cost of an in-state public college...and how promising students can pay significantly less than the "sticker price" even at the best state universities. No other book offers this much practical guidance on choosing a college...and no other book will save you as much money! • Secrets your school's guidance counselor doesn't know yet • The surprising ways colleges have changed how they do business • Get every dime of financial aid that's out there for you • Be a "fly on the wall" inside the college financial aid office • U.S. News & World Report: clueless about your child • Beyond one-size-fits-all rankings: finding the right program for your teenager • The best bargains in higher education • Overlooked academic choices that just might be perfect for you The hugely popular New York Times "Your Money" columnist and author of the bestselling *The Opposite of Spoiled* offers a deeply reported and emotionally honest approach to the biggest financial decision families will ever make: what to pay for college. Sending a teenager to a flagship state university for four years of on-campus living costs more than \$100,000 in many parts of the United States. Meanwhile, many families of freshmen attending selective private colleges will spend triple—over \$300,000. With the same passion, smarts, and humor that infuse his personal finance column, Ron Lieber offers a much-needed roadmap to help families navigate this difficult and often confusing journey. Lieber begins by explaining who pays what and why and how the financial aid system got so complicated. He also pulls the curtain back on merit aid, an entirely new form of discounting that most colleges now use to compete with peers. While price is essential, value is paramount. So what is worth paying extra for, and how do you know when it exists in abundance at any particular school? Is a small college better than a big one? Who actually does the teaching? Given that every college claims to have reinvented its career center, who should we actually believe? He asks the tough questions of college presidents and financial aid gatekeepers that parents don't know (or are afraid) to ask and summarizes the research about what matters and what doesn't. Finally, Lieber calmly walks families through the process of setting financial goals, explaining the system to their children and figuring out the right ways to save, borrow, and bargain for a better deal. *The Price You Pay for College* gives parents the clarity they need to make informed choices and helps restore the joy and wonder the college experience is supposed to represent.

Danny Ruderman has helped countless students successfully apply, and get accepted, to the colleges of their choice. Now, with his step-by-step, comprehensive system he can help you too. Like having a college guidance counselor by your side every step of the way, *The Ultimate College Acceptance System* helps you to create a winning application. The book includes information on: Finding The Best School for You: Including The Ivies, Overlooked Schools, Schools for Performing Arts, Learning Disability Programs, and Schools for Students without an A or B average. Learning How to Increase Your Chances of Getting Accepted: Including How to Get Organized, How to Interview, How to Beat Standardized Tests, How to Know if You Should Apply Early, and How to Appeal a Decision. Completing the Application: Including How to Fill Out the Common Application, How to Write the "Big" Essay, How to Compose "Smaller Paragraph" Essays, How to Create a Personal Resume, How to Get Strong Letters of Recommendation, and How to Complete Financial Aid Forms. Includes a bonus Resource CD with downloadable forms, useful website links, and audio of author speaking about the latest recommendations for parents and students!

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2020 From award-winning higher education journalist and New York Times bestselling author Jeffrey Selingo comes a revealing look from inside the admissions office—one that identifies surprising strategies that will aid in the college search. Getting into a top-ranked college has never seemed more impossible, with acceptance rates at some elite universities dipping into the single digits. In *Who Gets In and Why*, journalist and higher education expert Jeffrey Selingo dispels entrenched notions of how to compete and win at the admissions game, and reveals that teenagers and parents have much to gain by broadening their notion of what qualifies as a "good college." Hint: it's not all about the sticker on the car window. Selingo, who was embedded in three different admissions offices—a selective private university, a leading liberal arts college, and a flagship public campus—closely observed gatekeepers as they made their often agonizing and sometimes life-changing decisions. He also followed select students and their parents, and he traveled around the country meeting with high school counselors, marketers, behind-the-scenes consultants, and college rankers. While many have long believed that admissions is merit-based, rewarding the best students, *Who Gets In and Why* presents a more complicated truth, showing that "who gets in" is frequently more about the college's agenda than the applicant. In a world where thousands of equally qualified students vie for a

fixed number of spots at elite institutions, admissions officers often make split-second decisions based on a variety of factors—like diversity, money, and, ultimately, whether a student will enroll if accepted. One of the most insightful books ever about “getting in” and what higher education has become, *Who Gets In and Why* not only provides an usually intimate look at how admissions decisions get made, but guides prospective students on how to honestly assess their strengths and match with the schools that will best serve their interests. *The Truth about College Admission* is the practical and inspiring guidebook your family needs, an essential companion along the path to college acceptance.

A winning college application essay takes admission officers beyond the numbers and shows them what a student really cares about, how he/she thinks and who he/she really is. *The College Application Essay* by Sarah Myers McGinty is an easy-to-follow guide shows students how to maximize the opportunity to “tell us about yourself” by using the tools and skills they already have. Includes: Ways to choose a topic Strategies for distinctive answers Remedies for procrastinators Jumpstarts for writer's block Tips on editing Over 50 real application questions Sample essays by real students Critiques of the sample essays guide students toward the best practices and away from common mistakes.

What does an admissions officer look for in a college application essay? You. It's that simple. There's no formula, no trick, no strategy, says Harry Bauld, a former Ivy League admissions officer. But with acceptance rates at all-time lows, just being yourself in an essay means understanding your readers and the unique form in which you are writing. In this fully revised and updated edition of the classic guide to writing the best essay of your life, Bauld reveals the big clichés (The Trip, The Jock, Miss America, Pet Death) and helps you discover ways to come alive on the page as a real person instead of applicant number 13,791.

“Successful strategies for a winning essay”--Front cover.

“In-depth profiles, ratings & lists to help find the right college for you--based on feedback from 154,000 students”--Cover.

Provides guidelines and examples for handling research, outlining, spelling, punctuation, formatting, and documentation.

Danny Ruderman has helped countless students successfully apply, and get accepted, to the colleges of their choice. Now, with his step-by-step, comprehensive system he can help you too. Like having a college guidance counselor by your side every step of the way, *The Ultimate College Acceptance System* helps you to create a winning application. The book includes information on: Finding The Best School for You: Including The Ivies, Overlooked Schools, Schools for Performing Arts, Learning Disability Programs, and Schools for Students without an A or B average. Learning How to Increase Your Chances of Getting Accepted: Including How to Get Organized, How to Interview, How to Beat Standardized Tests, How to Know if You Should Apply Early, and How to Appeal a Decision. Completing the Application: Including How to Fill Out the Common Application, How to Write the “Big” Essay, How to Compose “Smaller Paragraph” Essays, How to Create a Personal Resume, How to Get Strong Letters of Recommendation, and How to Complete Financial Aid Forms.

Writing, for most of us, is bound up with anxiety. It’s even worse when it feels like your whole future—or at least where you’ll spend the next four years in college—is on the line. It’s easy to understand why so many high school seniors put off working on their applications until the last minute or end up with a generic and clichéd essay. The good news? You already have the “secret sauce” for crafting a compelling personal essay: your own experiences and your unique voice. The best essays rarely catalog how students have succeeded or achieved. Good writing shows the reader how you’ve struggled and describes mistakes you’ve made. Excellent essays express what you’re fired up about, illustrate how you think, and illuminate the ways you’ve grown. More than twenty million students apply to college every year; many of them look similar in terms of test scores, grades, courses taken, extracurricular activities. Admissions officers wade through piles of files. As an applicant, you need to think about what will interest an exhausted reader. What can you write that will make her argue to admit you instead of the thousands of other applicants? A good essay will be conversational and rich in vivid details, and it could only be written by one person—you. This book will help you figure out how to find and present the best in yourself. You’ll acquire some useful tools for writing well—and may even have fun—in the process.

In this book, a college admissions expert and insider breaks down the complicated college admissions process into manageable elements, including: ? The big picture? How to get organized? How to write college application essays? How to manage testing, college visits, and interviews ? Why character matters? How to show interest in a college? How to handle change and the unexpected? How to help your chances while you wait for decisions ? Tips to complete applications? How to make the final college choice This book is based on columns written for a syndicate of eight newspapers. The columns began after the college admissions scandal, known as Varsity Blues, and continued throughout the crisis caused by Covid-19. Barbara's advice is easily absorbed as bite-sized nuggets of information for students seeking admission to college, including the best colleges in the world. Its easy-to-read structure makes this volume one that should be on the shelves of all high school students and their parents, to return to again and again throughout the high school experience on their path to successful college admission. Barbara Connolly, JD, CEP, is a lawyer, Certified Educational Planner, and former admissions reader at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, and significantly, the parent of four adult children, all of whom were admitted to Ivy League colleges. For over 18 years, Barbara has consulted with countless students on their path to the best colleges in the world. Barbara is the founder of College Choice Counseling, an educational consulting company headquartered in Birmingham, Michigan, with over 40 talented team members located throughout the U.S. and Canada.

You can get into the perfect school! You may think that getting an acceptance letter from selective colleges and universities is a mad dash to the top that only the very best students survive, and those who make it are just the lucky ones. Stress levels soar as it feels like the bar is rising higher and everything is out of your control. But that's not true! You can take control, and you can do it in a way that's as effective as it is empowering. From describing your extracurriculars to interviews with admission officers, it comes down to two questions: What matters most to you? How does it manifest in your life? The answers will give direction to every part of the admission process. Ethan Sawyer (the College Essay Guy), along with dozens of top admission experts, will help you stand out by showing colleges and universities how your values and your drive will change you, your alma mater, and the world. Inside you'll find... Advice and insight from a team of counselors, advisors, and deans of admission Interactive exercises that quickly and easily provide the best content for your application Access to a massive database of online resources, including organizational tools and in-depth guides Guidance for veterans, students with learning differences, LGBTQ+ students, students interested in women's colleges or HBCUs, and more www.collegeessayguy.com

“Contains 50 essays with analysis from successful Ivy League applicants, tips on how to select the best topic, what Ivy League admission officers want to see in your essay, 25 mistakes that guarantee failure and tips from Ivy League students on how to write a successful essay”--

““You Got Into Where?”” is the first college admissions guide written by a student who is fresh out of the college admissions process. Learn how I was admitted to schools like the University of Southern California and New York University with full tuition scholarships. The guide features copies of my admissions essay, writing supplement, and activities resume that I used to apply to college the fall of my senior year. Get advice on all the secrets of the admissions process from start to finish. ““I can't believe that a 17 year-old has written a college

admissions books that is so well-written, clear and accurate. No wonder USC jumped at the chance to have her become their student. My sense of things is that mostly parents read college admissions books; high school students just don't want to take the time. Given what she says and how she says it, I truly believe that teens will rush to read "You Got Into Where?" It is well worth their time." -Marjorie Hansen Shaevitz Author, adMISSION POSSIBLE

Writing an amazing college admission essay is easier than you think! So you're a high school senior given the task of writing a 650-word personal statement for your college application. Do you tell the story of your life, or a story from your life? Do you choose a single moment? If so, which one? The options seem endless. Lucky for you, they're not. College counselor Ethan Sawyer (aka The College Essay Guy) will show you that there are only four (really, four!) types of college admission essays. And all you have to do to figure out which type is best for you is answer two simple questions: 1. Have you experienced significant challenges in your life? 2. Do you know what you want to be or do in the future? With these questions providing the building blocks for your essay, Sawyer guides you through the rest of the process, from choosing a structure to revising your essay, and answers the big questions that have probably been keeping you up at night: How do I brag in a way that doesn't sound like bragging? and How do I make my essay, like, deep? Packed with tips, tricks, exercises, and sample essays from real students who got into their dream schools, College Essay Essentials is the only college essay guide to make this complicated process logical, simple, and (dare we say it?) a little bit fun.

You can get in. You can afford it. Put your college application on the offensive with Coach Mom Top College Admission Playbook. Elite universities receive tens of thousands of applications with near perfect grades and ACT/SAT scores. How can you stand out? Written by a budget-conscious mom coach of three teens admitted to top colleges including the Ivy League, `Coach Mom ? Elizabeth Gardner reveals successful application strategy secrets. Perfect for the high school applicant or parent coach, Coach Mom Top College Admission Playbook shares uplifting, amusing, and devastating true stories of application success and failure to show you how to: Prepare in middle and high school Crush the ACT/SAT Develop standout extracurriculars Create an application theme Tackle Covid-19 changes Maximize Aid Use application sections to their full potential Help admission officers fight for you Brainstorm and write essays that resonate Use recommendations strategically Beat interviews, deferral, waitlist and more!

An NPR Favorite Book of the Year Winner of the Critics' Choice Book Award, American Educational Studies Association Winner of the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award Winner of the CEP–Mildred García Award for Exemplary Scholarship "Eye-opening...Brings home the pain and reality of on-campus poverty and puts the blame squarely on elite institutions." —Washington Post "Jack's investigation redirects attention from the matter of access to the matter of inclusion...His book challenges universities to support the diversity they indulge in advertising." —New Yorker "The lesson is plain—simply admitting low-income students is just the start of a university's obligations. Once they're on campus, colleges must show them that they are full-fledged citizen." —David Kirp, American Prospect "This book should be studied closely by anyone interested in improving diversity and inclusion in higher education and provides a moving call to action for us all." —Raj Chetty, Harvard University The Ivy League looks different than it used to. College presidents and deans of admission have opened their doors—and their coffers—to support a more diverse student body. But is it enough just to admit these students? In this bracing exposé, Anthony Jack shows that many students' struggles continue long after they've settled in their dorms. Admission, they quickly learn, is not the same as acceptance. This powerfully argued book documents how university policies and campus culture can exacerbate preexisting inequalities and reveals why some students are harder hit than others.

A guide to crafting a meaningful and polished college admissions essay that gets students into the school of their dreams by expressing their unique personality, strengths, and goals. Stand out from the crowd with a memorable, meaningful personal statement that will capture the attention of college admissions officers. Writing a college admissions essay is no easy task—but with college essay coach and New York Times contributor Alan Gelb's accessible and encouraging step-by-step instructions, you'll be able to write an honest, one-of-a-kind essay that really shines. Gelb's ten-step approach has garnered great results for the students who have tried it, many of whom were accepted into their dream schools (Harvard, Brown, Yale, and more). This to-the-point handbook shows you how to identify an engaging essay topic, and then teaches you how to use creative writing techniques to craft a narrative that expresses your unique personality, strengths, and goals. Whether you're an A-student looking for an extra boost or a less-confident writer who needs more intensive help, Gelb's reassuring and concise guidance will help you every step of the way, from your initial draft to final revision. In the end, you will have a well-polished, powerful, and profound personal statement that you can feel proud of—a college essay that doesn't feel "pre-fab," but is a real reflection of your own individuality.

Discusses the importance of the college admissions essay, looks at examples of successful personal statements, and offers advice on planning, organizing, and preparing a personal essay.

A comprehensive guide to the powerful packaging tool called the "Hook"--a special talent or achievement that leaps off the page of a college application and catches the eye of admissions officers. Competition for entry to the nation's top colleges is at an all-time high--and intensifying every year. Now nationally recognized college consultant and writer Pam Proctor reveals the "packaging" secrets that can help any student maximize the odds of admission to the college of his or her choice. Using real life anecdotes and examples from winning applications, Proctor provides students with a step-by-step program that will enable them to determine and develop their unique "Hook," and then package and market themselves at every stage of the admissions process.

Read award-winning journalist Frank Bruni's New York Times bestseller: an inspiring manifesto about everything wrong with today's frenzied college admissions process and how to make the most of your college years. Over the last few decades, Americans have turned college admissions into a terrifying and occasionally devastating process, preceded by test prep, tutors, all sorts of stratagems, all kinds of rankings, and a conviction among too many young people that their futures will be determined and their worth established by which schools say yes and which say no. In Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be, Frank Bruni explains why this mindset is wrong, giving students and their parents a new perspective on this brutal, deeply flawed competition and a path out of the anxiety that it provokes. Bruni, a bestselling author and a columnist for the New York Times, shows that the Ivy League has no monopoly on corner offices, governors' mansions, or the most prestigious academic and scientific grants. Through statistics, surveys, and the stories of hugely successful people, he demonstrates that many kinds of colleges serve as ideal springboards. And he illuminates how to make the most of them. What matters in the end are students' efforts in and out of the classroom, not the name on their diploma. Where you go isn't who you'll be. Americans need to hear that--and this indispensable manifesto says it with eloquence and respect for the real promise of higher education.

The Perfect Score Project is an indispensable guide to acing the SAT – as well as the affecting story of a single mom's quest to light a fire under her teenage son. It all began as an attempt by Debbie Stier to help her high-school age son, Ethan, who would shortly be studying for the SAT. Aware that Ethan was a typical teenager (i.e., completely uninterested in any test) and that a mind-boggling menu of test-prep options existed, she decided – on his behalf -- to sample as many as she could to create the perfect SAT test-prep recipe. Debbie's quest turned out to be an exercise in both hilarity and heartbreak as she took the SAT seven times in one year and in-between "went to school" on standardized testing. Here, she reveals why the SAT has become so important,

the cottage industries it has spawned, what really works in preparing for the test and what is a waste of time. Both a toolbox of fresh tips and an amusing snapshot of parental love and wisdom colliding with teenage apathy, *The Perfect Score Project* rivets. In the book Debbie does it all: wrestles with Kaplan and Princeton Review, enrolls in Kumon, navigates khanacademy.org, meets regularly with a premier grammar coach, takes a battery of intelligence tests, and even cadges free lessons from the world's most prestigious (and expensive) test prep company. Along the way she answers the questions that plague every test-prep rookie, including: "When do I start?"... "Do the brand-name test prep services really deliver?"... "Which should I go with: a tutor, an SAT class, or self study?"... "Does test location really matter?" ... "How do I find the right tutor?"... "How do SAT scores affect merit aid?"... and "What's the one thing I need to know?" *The Perfect Score Project's* combination of charm, authority, and unexpected poignancy makes it one of the most compulsively readable guides to SAT test prep ever – and a book that will make you think hard about what really matters.

FORBES TOP 10 HIGHER EDUCATION BOOKS OF 2020 The riveting true story behind the Varsity Blues college admissions scandal, a cautionary tale of parenting gone wrong, the system that enabled families to veer so far off course, and the mastermind who made it all happen. When federal prosecutors dropped the bombshell of Operation Varsity Blues, it broke open the crimes of exclusive universities and wealthy families all over the country, shattering the myth of American meritocracy. In *Unacceptable*, veteran Wall Street Journal reporters Melissa Korn and Jennifer Levitz dig deep into how otherwise smart, loving parents became caught up in scandal, led through the side door by one man: college whisperer Rick Singer. *Unacceptable* traces how, over decades, the charismatic Singer easily reeled in parents hoping to guarantee top educations for their children, and exploited a system rigged against regular people. Exploring the status obsession that seduced entitled parents in search of an edge, Korn and Levitz unfurl a scheme that entangled more than fifty conspirators, from wealthy CEOs to famous actresses, leading to imprisonments, ruined careers, and terminated enrollments. An eye-opening account of corruption in America's most exclusive institutions, *Unacceptable* tells the story of helicopter parenting, coddled teens, and the man who thought he couldn't be caught. Detailing Singer's steady rise and dramatic fall, Korn and Levitz expose the ugly underbelly of elite college admissions, and the devastating consequences of buying success.

The competition to get into your college of choice has never been fiercer. Unfortunately, much of the application process is out of your hands. But one major aspect of the admission process is under your control—your personal statement. Your application essay provides you with the opportunity to let your true, unique and totally irresistible self shine through. *College Admission Essays For Dummies* is your total guide to crafting application essays that will make people sit up and take notice. It demystifies the authority figures who'll judge your work, helps you decide what to write, and then arms you with the knowledge and skills you need to write your essay on time and on target. Step by step, it walks you through the entire essay-writing process, offering priceless tips on how to: Choose the best topic, tone, and structure for your essay Capture the crucial stories that reveal who you are Avoid common pitfalls that can sabotage your application Overcome writer's block Know how to respond to unusual and off-the-wall essay questions Write successful short answers to specific application questions College admission guru Geraldine Woods punctures common myths about application essays and tells you what you absolutely must do to write a good one. With the help of many inspiring and instructive killer essays, she shows you how to: Put yourself in the right mental state for writing well Gather ideas, focus on a topic and choose the best structure for your essay Use topic sentences, detail, and strong introductions and conclusions Write a rough draft Show rather than tell your story Make sure your spelling and grammar are pitch perfect Create smooth transitions and avoid repetitions Your college application essay is your chance to show the committee that you're more than just a statistic. Let *College Admission Essays For Dummies* show you how to write "admit-clinching" college essays.

A comprehensive guide for college-bound teens and their parents shares step-by-step coverage of today's competitive admissions processes based on expert advice by 50 admissions deans from ivy-league universities, in a reference that outlines recommendations for the sophomore, junior and senior grades of high school. Original.

The ONLY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ADVICE GUIDE SPECIFICALLY FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2021 and 2022! *College Admissions During COVID* provides the latest info & recommendations for successfully navigating your application process during the global coronavirus pandemic. · If my target school is test-optional, do I still need to take the SAT or ACT? · What should I do if most of my extracurriculars were canceled due to lockdowns? · Should I consider a gap year in the hopes that things will be more settled later? · What should I expect if I have to take a standardized test (like the APs or ACT) from home? · Is it even worth enrolling in college, if classes will all be remote? Students in the entering classes of 2021 and 2022 face a college admissions landscape unlike any before. The massive changes wrought by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have upended once-standard admissions advice, with new questions--like those above--arising daily. Fortunately, Rob Franek, editor-in-chief at *The Princeton Review* and nationally-recognized college admissions expert, is here to help you fill in those gaps with straightforward, balanced information. *COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DURING COVID* (a new edition of our popular *College Admissions 101*, specifically updated with advice for the current situation) gathers together the 70+ questions that Rob is hearing most frequently from students and parents, and answers them with information garnered from deans, admissions officers, and his own 25+ years of expertise. Some things remain the same (yes, you should write an essay!), but others have changed (you may have to postpone that campus visit). No matter how crazy things seem, Rob and *The Princeton Review* are here to help guide you through this difficult time and set you up for college admission success!

In real life, Mitchell Stevens is a professor in bustling New York. But for a year and a half, he worked in the admissions office of a bucolic New England college that is known for its high academic standards, beautiful campus, and social conscience. Ambitious high schoolers and savvy guidance counselors know that admission here is highly competitive. But creating classes, Stevens finds, is a lot more complicated than most people imagine. Admissions officers love students but they work for the good of the school. They must bring each class in "on budget," burnish the statistics so crucial to institutional prestige, and take care of their colleagues in the athletic department and the development office. Stevens shows that the job cannot be done without "systematic preferencing," and racial affirmative action is the least of it. Kids have an edge if their parents can pay full tuition, if they attend high schools with exotic zip codes, if they are athletes--especially football players--and even if they are popular. With novelistic flair, sensitivity to history, and a keen eye for telling detail, Stevens explains how elite colleges and universities have assumed their central role in the production of the nation's most privileged classes. *Creating a Class* makes clear that, for better or worse, these schools

now define the standards of youthful accomplishment in American culture more generally.

The best-selling author of *How Children Succeed* returns with a powerful, mind-changing inquiry into higher education in the United States. Does college still work? Is the system designed just to protect the privileged and leave everyone else behind? Or can a college education today provide real opportunity to young Americans seeking to improve their station in life? *The Years That Matter Most* tells the stories of students trying to find their way, with hope, joy, and frustration, through the application process and into college. Drawing on new research, the book reveals how the landscape of higher education has shifted in recent decades and exposes the hidden truths of how the system works and whom it works for. And it introduces us to the people who really make higher education go: admissions directors trying to balance the class and balance the budget, College Board officials scrambling to defend the SAT in the face of mounting evidence that it favors the wealthy, researchers working to unlock the mysteries of the college-student brain, and educators trying to transform potential dropouts into successful graduates. With insight, humor, and passion, Paul Tough takes readers on a journey from Ivy League seminar rooms to community college welding shops, from giant public flagship universities to tiny experimental storefront colleges. Whether you are facing your own decision about college or simply care about the American promise of social mobility, *The Years That Matter Most* will change the way you think—not just about higher education, but about the nation itself.

Director of the Chapman journalism program—and mother of four recent college grads—Susan F. Paterno leads you through the admissions process to help you and your family make the best decision possible. How is it possible that Harvard is more affordable for most American families than their local state university? Or that up to half of eligible students receive no financial aid? Or that public universities are rejecting homegrown middle- and working-class applicants and instead enrolling wealthy out-of-state students? College admission has escalated into a high-stakes game of emotional and financial survival. How is the deck stacked against you? And what can you do about it? Susan F. Paterno, a veteran academic and journalist, answers these questions and more in *Game On*. Paterno helped her four very different kids navigate the application process to a wide range of colleges, paying for their four-year educations on a finite budget. She incisively decodes the college admission industry—the consultants, the tutors, the rankers, the branding companies hawking “advantage”—and arms you with the knowledge you need to make the system work for you. You’ll learn how to narrow your focus, analyze who gets in and why, and look for the right financial fit before considering anything else, including geography, reputation, and, especially, ranking. Among the tools and insights in *Game On*: · Why forty years of failed free-market policies have led to skyrocketing tuition and historic levels of student debt · Why applying to college has become a bewildering maze and how to find your way to a successful result · Why college costs are more terrifying than you think · How to read beyond the rack rate to negotiate the best financial package with the least debt · Why merit is a myth, but merit aid is essential · The difference between family debt and student debt and how to split it A playbook for the Hunger Games of higher education, *Game On* explains the anxiety, uncertainty, and chaos in college admission, explodes the myth of meritocracy, exposes the academy’s connection to America’s widening gap between rich and poor, and provides strategies to beat—and reform—a broken system.

Colleges Worth Your Money: A Guide to What America's Top Schools Can Do for You is an invaluable guide for students making the crucial decision of where to attend college when our thinking about higher education is radically changing. At a time when costs are soaring and competition for admission is higher than ever, the college-bound need to know how prospective schools will benefit them both as students and after graduation. *Colleges Worth Your Money* provides the most up-to-date, accurate, and comprehensive information for gauging the ROI of America’s top schools, including: In-depth profiles of 175 of the top colleges and universities across the U.S.; Over 75 key statistics about each school that cover unique admissions-related data points such as gender-specific acceptance rates, early decision acceptance rates, and five-year admissions trends at each college. The solid facts on career outcomes, including the school’s connections with recruiters, the rate of employment post-graduation, where students land internships, the companies most likely to hire students from a particular school, and much more. Data and commentary on each college’s merit and need-based aid awards, average student debt, and starting salary outcomes. *Top Colleges for America’s Top Majors* lists highlighting schools that have the best programs in 40+ disciplines. Lists of the “Top Feeder” undergraduate colleges into medical school, law school, tech, journalism, Wall Street, engineering, and more.

The idea of the gap year has taken hold in America. Since its development in Britain nearly fifty years ago, taking time off between secondary school and college has allowed students the opportunity to travel, develop crucial life skills, and grow up, all while doing volunteer work in much-needed parts of the developing world.

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