



College Preparation

What are we Getting
Ourselves Into?



Schedule

1:00 - 1:05 → Introduce speaker

1:05 - 1:30 → Presentation by Mr. Goreal

1:30 - 1:50 → Student Panel Discussion

1:50 - 2:00 → Q&A & wrap up (Trevor)





Kalven Goreal

College Advisor, High
School and College
Student Publications

Professional Writing
Coach since 2015

COVID-19 Impact

College admission & testing



Impact on college application plans

- ★ Student visits, open houses - campus closed
- ★ NACAC tool [here](#)
- ★ Temporary test-optional for 2021 Fall applicants
- ★ Rumor: colleges may extend application deadlines
- ★ Reduced admission due to social distancing?





Q&A - Impact on college application plans

- ★ How do I visit schools to determine right-fit when campus is closed?
Your advice on campus touring during pandemic.
- ★ How does pass/fail impact transcripts and admission chances?
- ★ Should I submit my SAT/ACT test scores with test-optional schools?
- ★ How do I reshape my narrative when test score is optional and extracurricular activities are going virtual?
- ★ How do I craft my story and showcase my portfolio: internship, capstone projects, community service and extracurricular activities?
- ★ Will Covid-19 help or hurt the class of 2021 college prospects?





College Tour

- ★ Virtual tours, information sessions
- ★ Research target college(s) websites
- ★ Mailing list signup
- ★ Email admission officer
- ★ Talk to current students and alums
- ★ Reach out to professors
- ★ Fiske Guide for College
- ★ Niche - best 2020 colleges





Pass/fail impact on admission

- ★ Greater emphasis on your GPA before and after the pandemic
- ★ Standardized test scores may become important
- ★ Holistic admission process - capstone projects during pandemic
- ★ Build up your portfolio, establish your identity
- ★ Demonstrate initiative: ability to design a learn-by-doing project, learn new skills, analyze, collaborate and communicate findings/solutions
- ★ Essays to showcase your portfolio: depth of knowledge, college preparedness





Test-Optional Schools

- ★ Standardized test score may become important
- ★ Test-optional means students can still submit standardized test score to enhance their application
- ★ Important when schools transition online and temporary relaxing academic standards (pass/fail)
- ★ Stay the course





Reshape my Narrative

- ★ Find your passion
- ★ Get involved in related learn-by-doing projects and volunteer opportunities
- ★ Build your identity
- ★ Showcase your portfolio
- ★ Craft your story



Crafting Your Story

What does that mean?



Crafting Your Personalized Experience

- Colleges are looking for certain traits in a candidate

Establish your identity, build your narrative, showcase those characters/skills in your capstone projects, internship, extracurricular, community services to demonstrate:

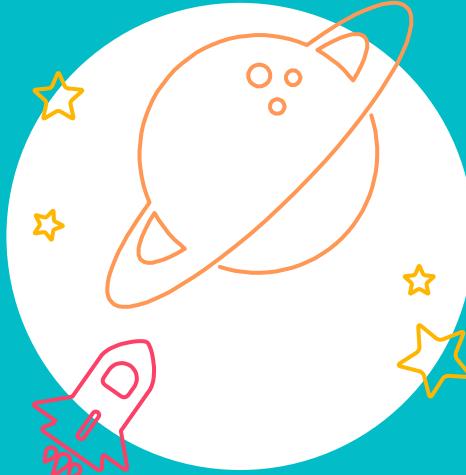
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Community involvement
- Teamwork, collaboration
- Problem solving, soft skills





Boundaries of Your Story

- ★ University of California: (4) 350-Word Essays
 - ★ Common Application: (1) 650 Words
 - ★ Majority of Competitive Schools: (1-3) Essays 100-700 words per Essay
 - ★ 5-25+ Prompts
- 



What Do Colleges Love to Hear

Ideal Situations for Everyone





Level and Depth of Activity

- ★ Many students join too many clubs and are not specialized
 - ★ **Successful applicants** commit to a handful of organizations, volunteer heavily for **a few select causes**
 - ★ How many successful leaders actively operate multiple business?
Success comes from **specialization**
 - ★ A **history** of passion and involvement in the pursuit
 - ★ Blog, publish, share via LinkedIn to **showcase** your research, or projects
- 

Writing the Essays

A Beginning Strategy



Writing Timeline

- ★ UC Essays are an excellent way of beginning the process
 - ★ Common/Coalition Application
 - ★ Supplementary Essays
- 

What is Written in Application Essays

- ★ My Experiences in A, B, and C
- ★ What I want to pursue in college
- ★ What I do to help others
- ★ What is a problem I have solved
- ★ How I will continue evolving

How You Write vs. What You Write

19

1. Everyone has multiple stories to tell about the COVID-19 Pandemic...so **STAND OUT.**
2. Focus on how the pandemic made you better, forced you to focus in other ways and to be productive using different methods. Don't focus on the negatives, although you could always mention them.
3. It is how you present your experience in a similar environment that matters most.
4. Do not recycle the subject matter in the prompts (need to have multiple activities that showcase passion/interest)

Examples of Adapting

- Online Meetings to keep momentum of projects
- Possibly shifting your efforts to accomplish closely related or similar goals
- Learn a new skill - University are making their courses online and free to all
- Build an app for a nonprofit, small business and anyone, <https://www.freecodecamp.org/>
- Make a positive impact in your community

Life for Everyone has Changed



Nearly all internships, school extracurricular, and community service activities have been reduced in some form, yet, some projects have been created during the pandemic, such as mask/face cover creation, 3D printing of face shields and distribution.

How have you kept progress in your projects and passions going?

Maybe you haven't been able to....

Nearly everything in life takes effort, dedication, and perseverance. Don't write a sad story of how your life is miserable because a season was cancelled...tell us how you made the very best of the situation and even involved others during a tough time.





Unique College Prompts

- ★ Write an Essay on an Interview with an Alumni
- ★ What is a recent Book you have read?
- ★ Write a Letter to your Future Roommate
- ★ “I have no special talent,” Albert Einstein once observed. “I am only passionately curious.” Celebrate your curiosity.





Narrative Flair that Sparks the Mind

- ★ V: Vivid - Makes a reader sense a student's illustration
- ★ I: Interesting - Keeps the reader interested in your story
- ★ V: "Very"
- ★ I: Informative - 650 words means 650 words, inform as much as possible
- ★ D: Descriptions - Describe all plans, emotions, results, and experiences





Don't Forget!

The Details that Matter



Social & Media Skills

- ★ Have a LinkedIn Page, where professionals connect, obtain testimonial from industry experts
- ★ Showcase your capstone projects; community service etc. on social media
- ★ Be friends with teachers; give them positive experiences to write about
- ★ Some students delete or deactivate social media accounts to avoid scrutiny



When to Apply

- ★ Early Decision is Binding
- ★ Early Action is Not Binding
- ★ Regular Decision





Speaker

Q&A

Submitted Q&A

For Mr. Goreal:

Most colleges will be test-optional for 2021 applicants. How heavily will these colleges weight test scores in their admissions process, as compared to before?

Some colleges are test-blind for 2021 applicants because of COVID. Is it possible to still communicate test scores to these colleges?

Will spring 2020 pass/fail grades be weighted any differently vs a standard letter grading scale as used in other semesters?

What common mistakes do you see kids or parents making as high schoolers prepare for the college admissions process?

What is the difference between getting a CS degree in a liberal arts school versus a more STEM-focused school?

How many colleges would you recommend applying to this year given the uncertainty of COVID?

Do you believe admissions will be made more difficult this year due to COVID deferrals?



Sarah Yung

Rising Freshman at
Northwestern University

Media/Communications
Lead, EqOpTech



Kevin Gao

Rising Sophomore
at UC Berkeley



President of
EqOpTech
2018-19



Zosia Stafford

Rising Junior at
Tufts University

EqOpTech LAHS
Club Member



Student Panel

Q&A

Submitted Q&A

For Student Panel:

What was the biggest surprise for you during the admission process?

What aspects of college tours were helpful / not helpful?

Tell us about your college experience so far. (Kevin & Zosia)

How difficult was it to get your classes? (Kevin & Zosia)

What do you do in your free time?

Are there any new classes or subjects that you were surprised to love?

How many colleges did you apply to, and what was the ratio of reach to realistic schools?

When did you start your college applications? How much time did you spend on your essays?

Did you get waivers for your AP classes?

Credits

A special thank you to EqOpTech for providing a platform to share our passions. I am so appreciative of their hospitality and help!

Also, a big thank you to Sarah Yung, Kevin Gao, Zosia Stafford & Trevor Smith that dedicate their time for personal and social progress; sharing your stories is the best part of college applications!

How to Get Your Questions Answered



For any questions, please **e-mail:**

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Or **Call 2KAdvising:**

650-262-1180

Kalven Goreal
Founder





Thanks for being
a great audience!

