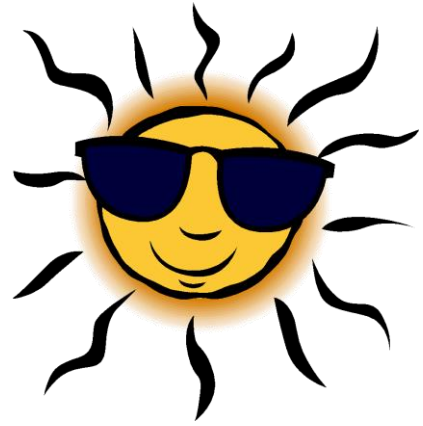


The Best Use of Summer Break During the High School Years for the College Process



Summer Before Sophomore Year

1. Visit college campuses near any place you might already be planning a trip to (even just to get a sense of large vs. small, public vs. private).
2. Do weekly volunteer service at a place you are passionate about.
3. Read!
4. Look into summer experiences and classes for high schoolers hosted at local college or community college campuses.
5. Explore summer camps or programs that look super interesting to you!
6. HAVE FUN! Enjoy yourself and gather fun, new experiences.

Summer Before Junior Year

1. Plan your vacation to visit campuses that have your intended major or that you are thinking of applying to.
2. Explore the possibility of attending a summer program for high schoolers hosted at a college campus, or a national student conference.
3. Read!
4. Take the summer ASH career/major exploration workshop.
5. Do service at a place you have a passion for.
6. Peruse college websites of schools that intrigue you. Start building your list of top contenders.
7. Make sure your activity list resume is started/updated; continue to update it through your junior year.
8. Explore a fun new hobby or interest! (you never know what you might end up writing your college essay about-- I have read great ones about exploring gardening, learning to compost, "my grandpa taught me how to build an engine one summer," "the summer I hiked 200 miles" -- the possibilities are endless!)

Summer Before Senior Year

1. "Picture yourself there!" Visit any campuses at the top of your application list that you have not yet seen (call ahead and schedule official visits, meet with admissions, professors, students, tour campus)
2. Take the ASH summer college app workshop
3. Finalize your college list
 - ___ finish researching schools, narrow the list of schools you will apply to (3-7 schools)
 - ___ know which are common app schools
4. Research each school's admissions requirements
 - ___ check application options and deadlines
 - ___ make a grid/spreadsheet listing requirements for each school (Rec letters? How many? Essays? Test scores required? Etc.)
5. Read! Take time for fun!