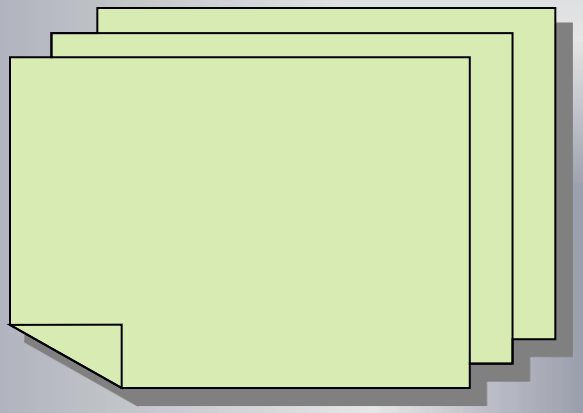
Attending college fairs-101



First question: What kinds of colleges will be there?

- 4 year colleges and universities
- Two year colleges
- Technical schools
- Sometimes the Military

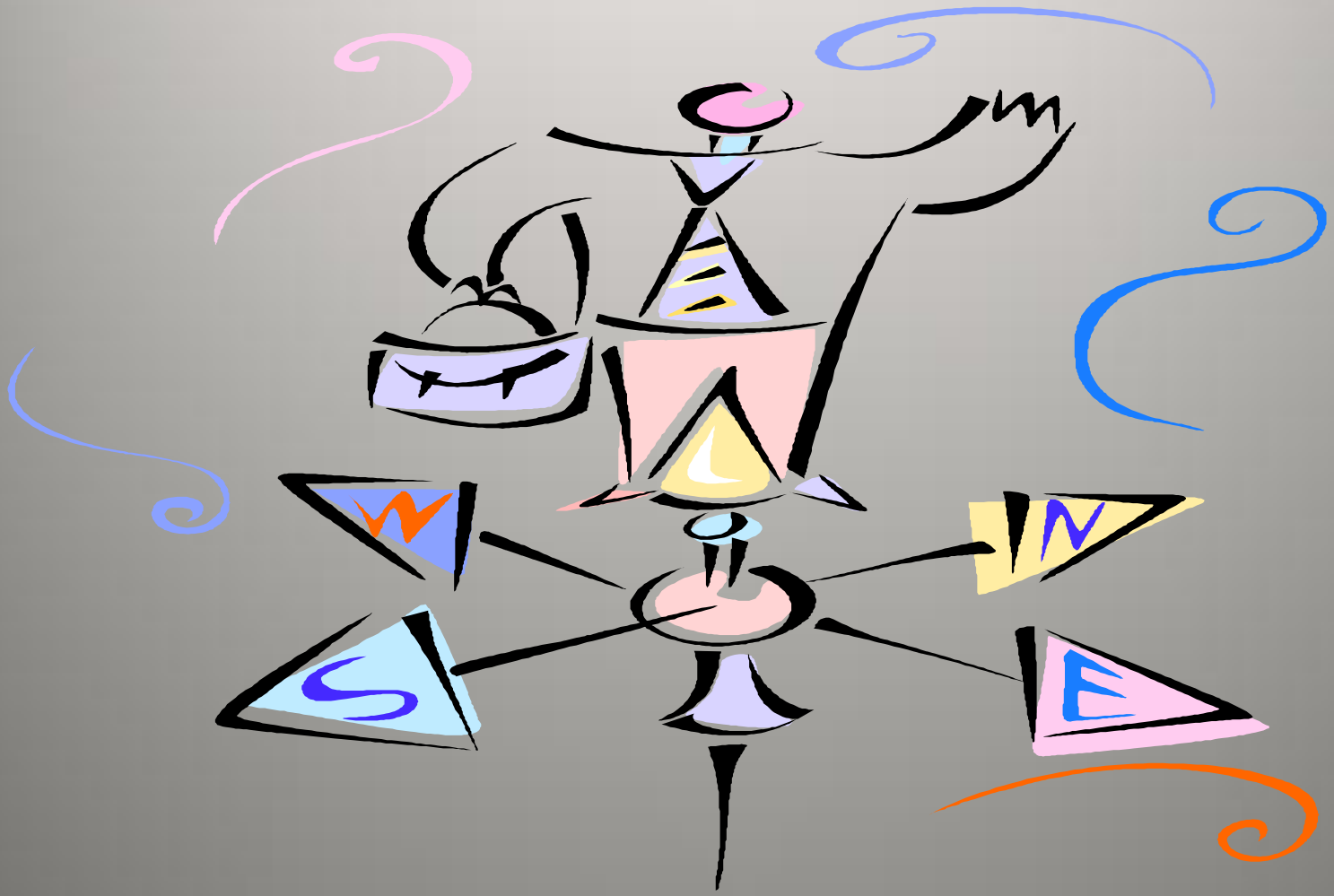
…if you have an IEP.



Again with the IEP….?



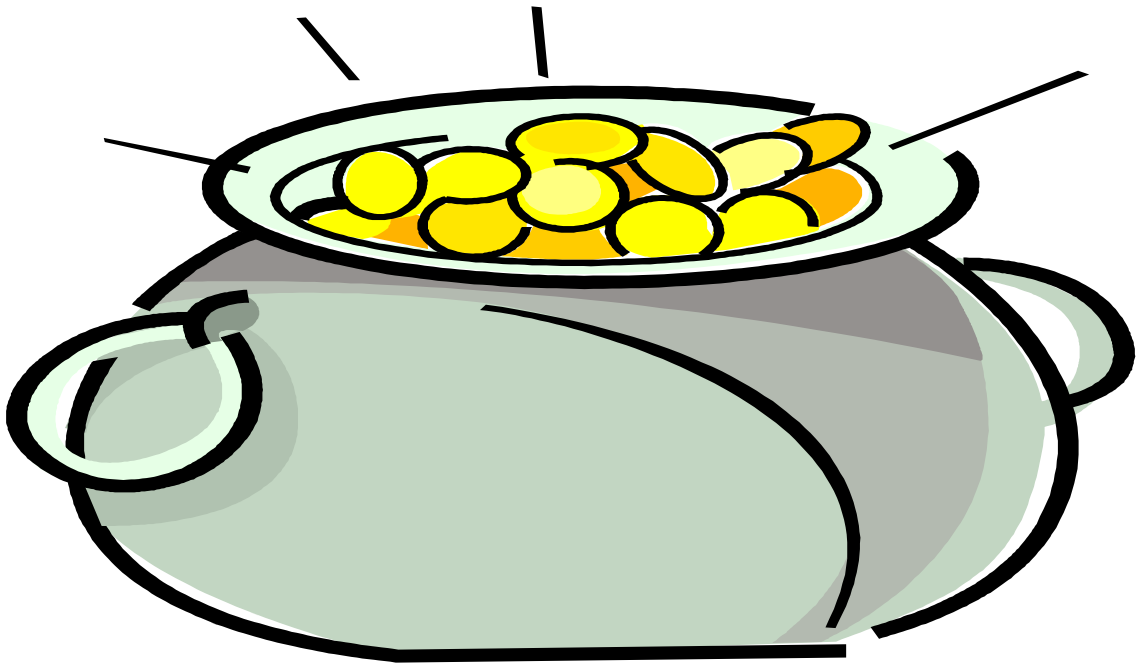
Life changes drastically after high school….



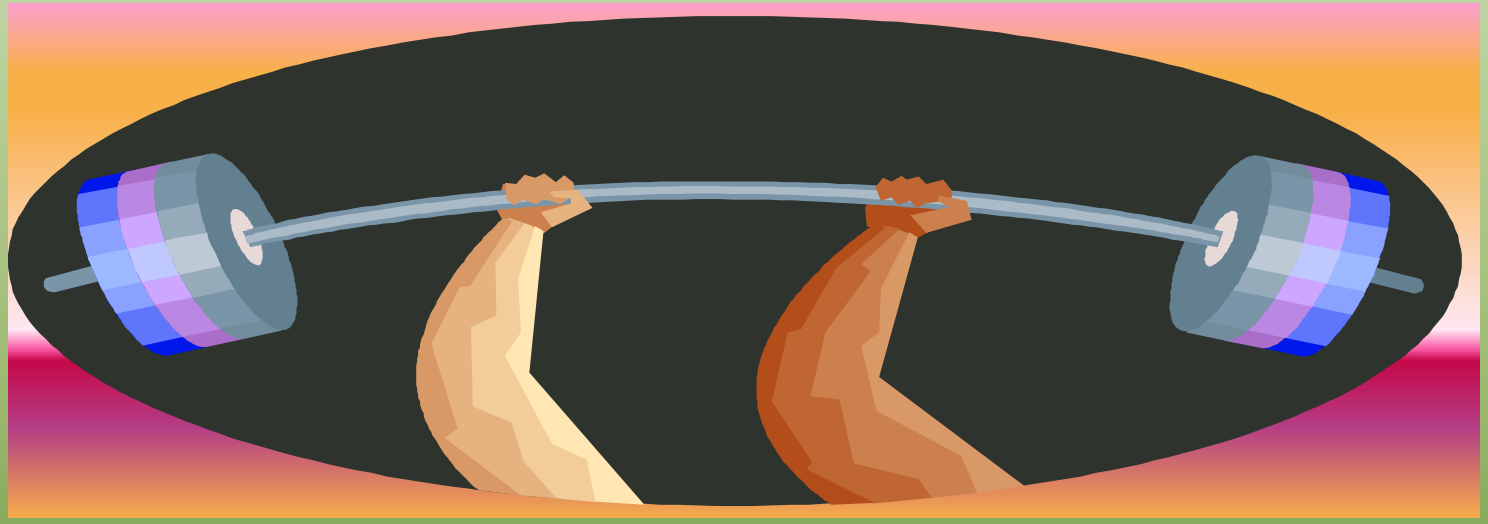
There is no more IEP



And you may think that is a good thing…but it did identify services that helped you be successful in school.



So let's review….
What are your academic strengths?



Math, History, English, PE, Art, Science, Languages, Sports?

What are your academic weaknesses?



Reading comprehension, Written expression, Math, Organization, Processing?

What accommodations do you get?

- Tutoring?
- Small Group?
- Reader?
- Extended time?

You must know this up front before you look for a college…



Even though colleges don't have IEP's, they do offer some of the same services that helped you in high school.

- ADA (American With Disabilities Act), a federal law that applies to every public college and university and nearly every private college and university in America, with the exception of those institutions affiliated with religious entities or organizations. This law allows students w/ disabilities to have accommodations for classes, ie extended time, Braille, books on tape, tutoring.

http://www.answers.com/topic/college-students-with-disabilities-accommodating

But as you read, not all colleges provide services that you may need to be successful



How do I find out if the college I want has services to meet my needs?



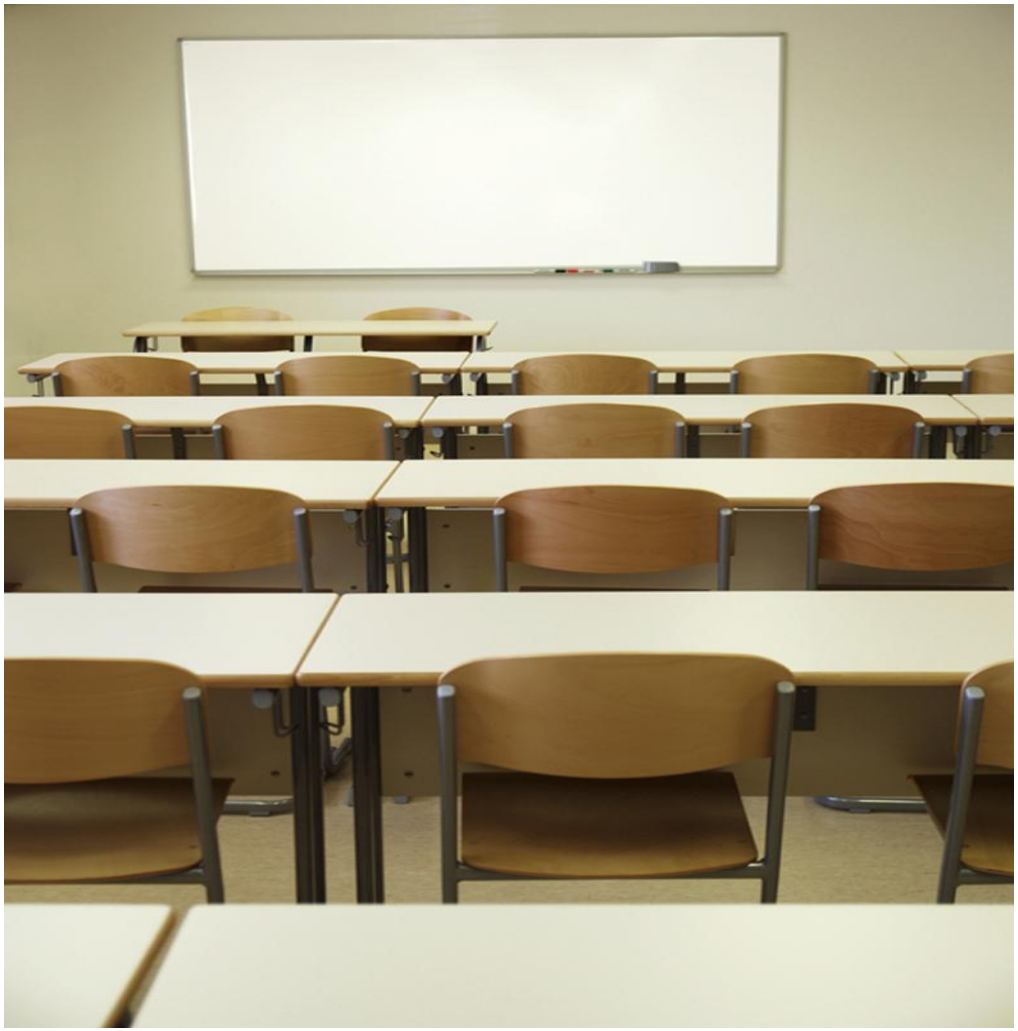
There are many resources to find out about colleges…

- Guidance counselors
- College Tours
- On-line research
- College Fairs….hey, that’s what we are talking about here….(just wanted to make sure you didn’t forget)

College Fair = Window Shopping



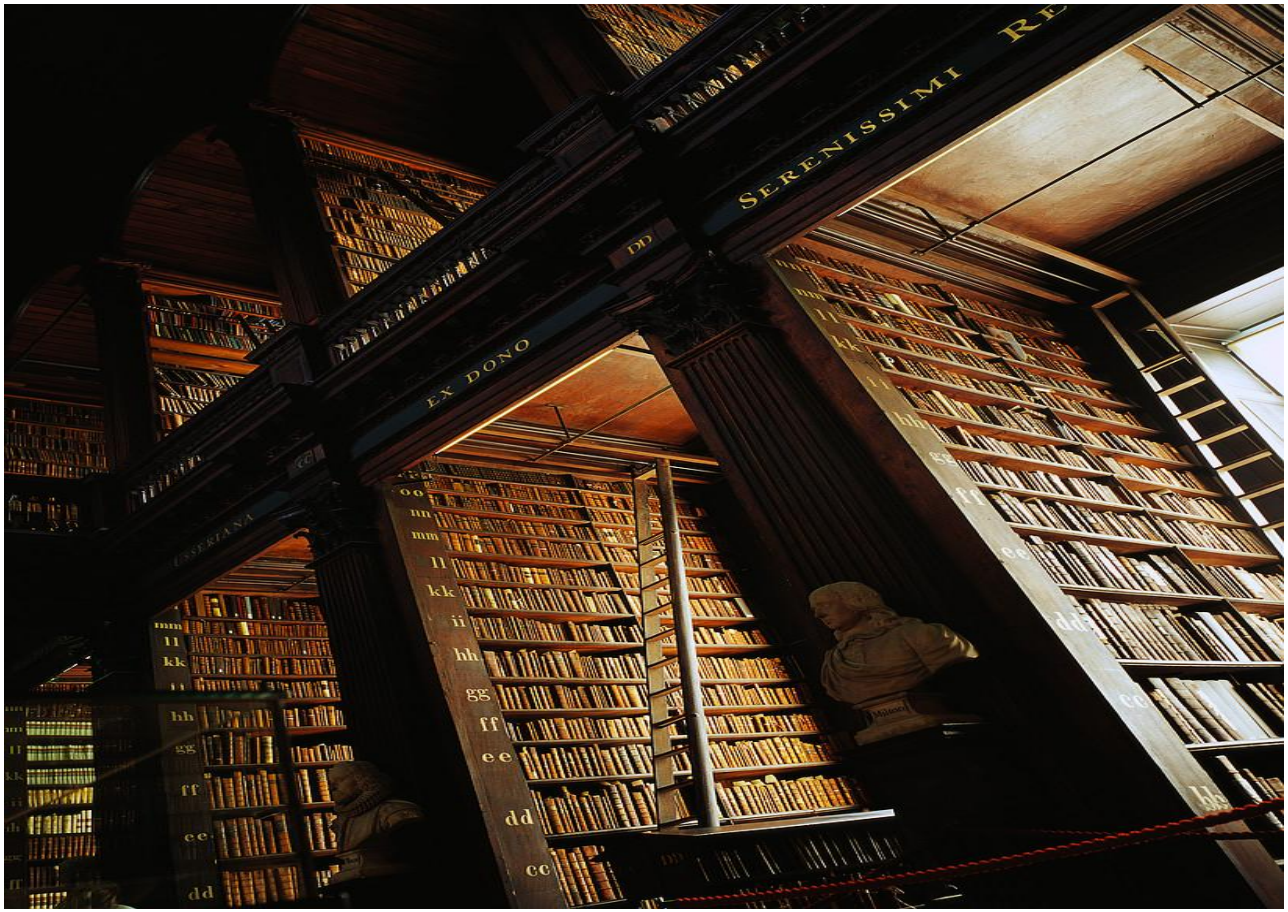
Usually, there's one or two people per college at a table.
They have pamphlets and freebies (pencils…pens…chocolate) and can answer questions about their college…without you reading!



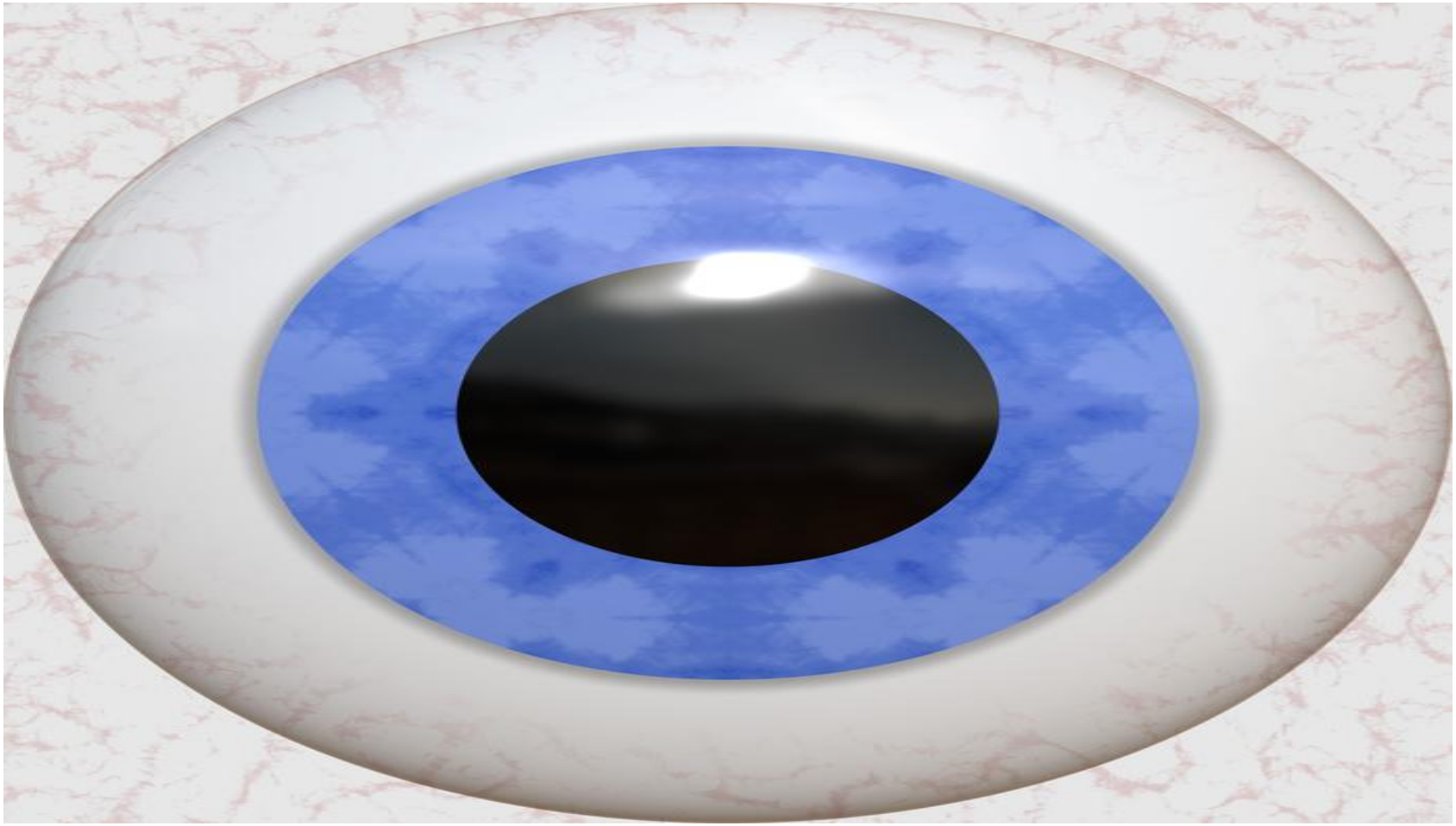
Can you focus here please?
It’s not about the chocolate….



It’s about college, college, college….



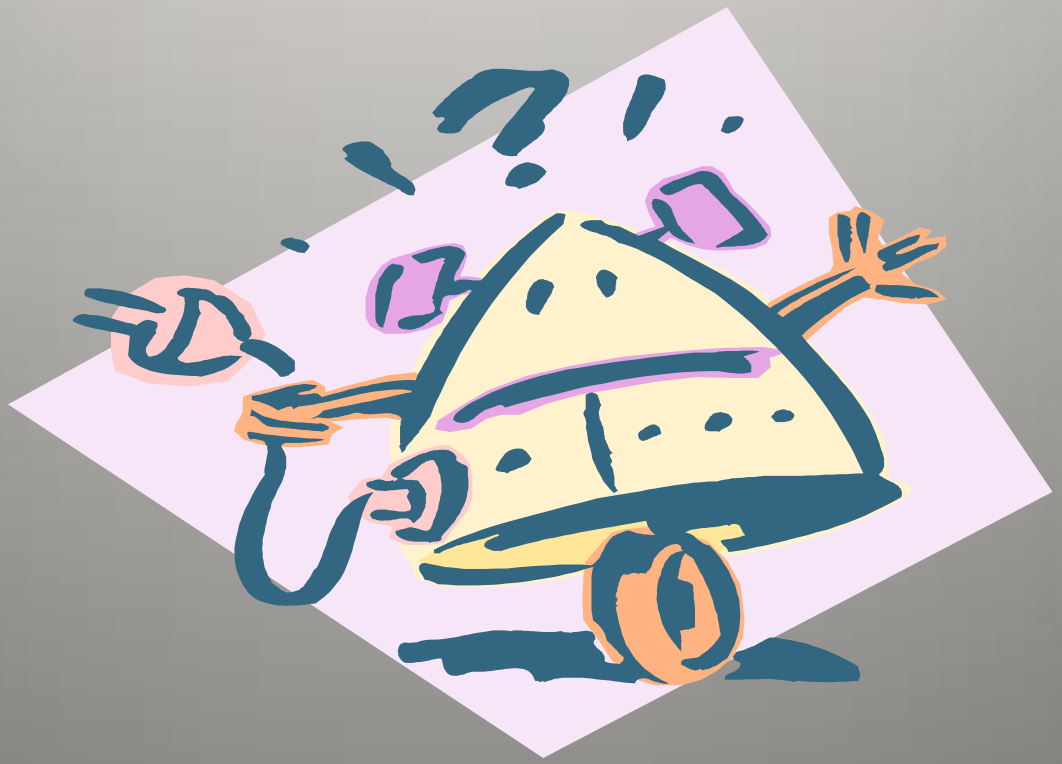
Thank you for refocusing!



You may feel nervous, but just pretend you are the interviewer…looking for a good employee…or…in this case….college!

- Should YOU feel pressure about hiring that person??? NO
- You are the customer…you control the pace…
- So take a deep breathe…..But don't hyperventilate!

What should you ask the college representative?



Questions to ask???

- Well, there are the general questions….

  Where is the college located? Do you require SAT/ACT scores, is there an application fee; do they have your major; can you transfer in after classes at a community college; ask about sports programs if you are an athlete or other areas of interest; how much does a semester cost; is that with or without residential placement (housing).

For you….what services do you need?

- Example: Tutoring
- Is it free or are there additional costs?
- If it's free, is there a limit to the hours you get?
- If I need books on tape, when and how do I access these services?

Don’t be afraid to write information down. You will want to go back and compare, trust me, they all start sounding the same after awhile.



Lastly, don’t be afraid to ask any questions that pop into your head…except…Can I have more chocolate? Really?



Remember…Knowledge is power

