

Lake Nona College/Military/Vocational Project Checklist

Section 1: Prepare

- 1. Register for SAT/ACT exam
 - I Need A Pencil.com (SAT/ACT prep)**
 - SAT- CollegeBoard.com
 - Test Date I signed up for _____
 - ACT- ACT.org
 - Test Date I signed up for _____
- 2. Write your Academic Resume
 - Type and Complete the entire Resume (located in packet)
- 3. Complete a minimum of **75** community service hours by the beginning of your senior year
 - DEADLINE: AUGUST 2010**
 - Register on <http://www.sweatmonkey.org/>
 - Return all hours of completion to Ms. Kennedy or Ms. Elder
- 4. Decide who will write your 3 college recommendation letters (1 has to be your guidance counselor, all colleges require that). All recommendation letters must be completed NO LATER than August 2010.
 - DEADLINE: AUGUST 2010**
 - Recommendation 1: Ms. Kennedy or Ms. Elder (your assigned guidance counselor)
 - Recommendation 2 _____
 - Recommendation 3 _____
- 5. Write 3 College Essays (Prompts are provided in packet).
 - DEADLINE: AUGUST 2010**
 - Completed Essay 1
 - Completed Essay 2
 - Completed Essay 3

Section 2: Are you ready?

- 1. Make a list of your top five colleges
- 2. Sign up for at least three college tours
- 3. Write an "email" to send to all your selected colleges

Section 3: What do you need to do?

- 1. Complete your FAFSA Forecaster: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Section 4: What am I missing?

- 1. Check Bright Futures Scholarship Eligibility
- 2. Check Graduation Status
- 3. Check University Admission Requirements Status

Seven Excuses Not to Go to College... **...And Why They're Lame**

Think college is for other kids, and not for you? Wrong. Don't give up on applying to college before you take a good look at it.

1. I can't go to college—nobody in my family has ever gone.

In every family, someone has to be first. Why not you? True, being first can be hard. For instance, you may have to explain to the family why college is important to you. On the other hand, being first is likely to be a source of pride, for you and for your family.

2. I've been in school for 12 years. That's enough! I just want a good job.

Give college a chance. It's not like high school or junior high. For one thing, in college you pick a major—a subject area that you want to learn about. As for that good job—the best jobs and the best salaries go to college grads.

3. I can't go to college because I can't afford it.

Most students get financial aid to help pay for college, and most aid is based on need. This means that the less money you have, the more aid you might get.

4. I can't go because I don't know how to apply or where I want to go.

Tell your high school counselors you want to go to college fairs, where colleges introduce themselves to students. Ask them how to write to schools for information. Try to visit colleges that interest you. Keep at it. After a while, you'll get a feel for differences among colleges, and start to know what you want.

5. I can't go to college—I don't know what I want to do with my life.

Join the crowd. Thousands of college freshmen haven't decided on a major or on a career. That's how college helps. It exposes you to all sorts of subjects you've never heard of before. College is a great place to learn more about careers you'll love for life.

6. I can't go to college, because I just won't fit in.

Not so. Most colleges have students from many backgrounds. Homesick? Need a hand? Look for people with your interests or your background in the African-American club, on the soccer field, or in a Korean study group. Remember, college is a great place to meet new kinds of people with different lifestyles. And the more people you understand and feel comfortable with, the better prepared you'll be for the world after college.

7. College is too hard for me.

Not you, too! Most students worry about being good enough for college, so you're not alone. One idea: In high school, don't just study—learn how to study. Most good students have strategies for studying. Once you learn how to study, chances are you'll do fine. Still need help? Professors are really helpful, and so are tutors.

First Name Last Name

Address • City, State Zip

Home: Phone • Cell: Phone

Email (should include first and last name)

Academic Resume

Profile

Objective: (2-3 sentences) Describe your career goals and/or college major. After high school goals.

Qualifications: (2-3 sentences) What qualifies you to be accepted in a higher institution after high school? Why should a college, military or tech school accept you based on your qualifications?

*** *This is a way for students to reflect on what makes them stand out in the crowd.*

Education (only high school and/(if) Dual Enrollment-Valencia)

Lake Nona High School: Orlando, Florida

Relevant Courses:

- Honors English I
- Advanced Placement American History
- Etc...

Specialized Electives:

- Spanish III
 - Television Production
 - Dual Enrollment- Student Success
 - AVID
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Leadership/Involvement (list any leadership and membership, in and out of school)

Key Club: 2009-2010

Organized a car drive to support the Red Cross

Football: 2009-2010

Junior Varsity Captain

Awards and Recognition/ Community Service

National Honor Society: 2009-2010

Give Kids the World: 2009-2010

35 hours

Academic Standings/ Leadership

Class Rank: _____

Grade Point Average: _____ (W) _____ (UW)

Bright Futures Eligibility: Yes

Key Club: 2009-2010

Organized a car drive to support the Red Cross

Football: 2009-2010

Junior Varsity Captain

References (could be a coach, guidance counselor, administrator, etc.)

Teacher First Name Last Name

Lake Nona High School: Algebra I

Teacher First Name Last Name

Lake Nona High School: Algebra I

College Essays

***** Pick 3 essays to write about from the list below. Do Not write more than 300 words.**

All essays must be typed, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font.

1. Consider the books you have read in the last year or two either for school or for leisure. Please discuss the way in which one of them changed your understanding of the world, other people, or yourself. (Duke University)
2. Tell us about a situation where you have not been successful and what you have learned from the experience. (William and Mary)
3. Recall an occasion when you took a risk that you now know was the right thing to do. (University of Pennsylvania)
4. Most people belong to many different communities, groups, defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. Limit your response to half a page, or approximately 250 words. (University of Virginia all applicants)
5. What can you contribute to a multi-cultural world? (William and Mary)
6. Respond to the question: How can I prepare educationally for a global society? (Hampton University)
7. Once you have completed your education, would you return to your hometown to begin your adult life? Why or why not? (William and Mary)
8. Anatole France said, "If 50 million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing." On what subject do you disagree with most people, and why? (Northwestern)
9. According to Stephen Carter, we can admire those with integrity even if we disagree with them. Are there people you admire even though you deeply disagree with them? What do you admire about them? How do you reconcile this apparent contradiction in your assessment? (Duke University)
10. Who is the secondary school teacher who has had the greatest positive impact on your development? Please describe the ways in which this teacher has influenced you. (Bowdoin College)

Writing HINTS:

Dos

Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal

Your essay must prove a single point or thesis. The reader must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Try having someone read just your introduction to see what he thinks your essay is about.

Essays that try to be too comprehensive end up sounding watered-down. Remember, it's not about telling the committee what you've done—they can pick that up from your list of activities—instead, it's about showing them who you are.

Prove It

Develop your main idea with vivid and specific facts, events, quotations, examples, and reasons. There's a big difference between simply stating a point of view and letting an idea unfold in the details:

- **Okay:** "I like to be surrounded by people with a variety of backgrounds and interests"
- **Better:** "During that night, I sang the theme song from Casablanca with a baseball coach who thinks he's Bogie, discussed Marxism with a little old lady, and heard more than I ever wanted to know about some woman's gall bladder operation."

Be Specific

Avoid clichéd, generic, and predictable writing by using vivid and specific details.

- **Okay:** "I want to help people. I have gotten so much out of life through the love and guidance of my family, I feel that many individuals have not been as fortunate; therefore, I would like to expand the lives of others."
- **Better:** "My Mom and Dad stood on plenty of sidelines 'til their shoes filled with water or their fingers turned white, or somebody's golden retriever signed his name on their coats in mud. I think that kind of commitment is what I'd like to bring to working with fourth-graders."

Don'ts

Don't Tell Them What You Think They Want to Hear

Most admissions officers read plenty of essays about the charms of their university, the evils of terrorism, and the personal commitment involved in being a doctor. Bring something new to the table, not just what you think they want to hear.

Don't Write a Resume

Don't include information that is found elsewhere in the application. Your essay will end up sounding like an autobiography, travelogue, or laundry list. Yawn.

- "During my junior year, I played first singles on the tennis team, served on the student council, maintained a B+ average, traveled to France, and worked at a cheese factory."

Don't Use 50 Words When Five Will Do

Eliminate unnecessary words.

- **Okay:** "Over the years it has been pointed out to me by my parents, friends, and teachers—and I have even noticed this about myself, as well—that I am not the neatest person in the world."
- **Better:** "I'm a slob."

Don't Forget to Proofread

Typos and spelling or grammatical errors can be interpreted as carelessness or just bad writing. Don't rely on your computer's spell check. It can miss spelling errors like the ones below.

- "After I graduate from high school, I plan to work for a nonprofit organization during the summer."
- "From that day on, Daniel was my best friend."

SECTION 2: COLLEGE/MILITARY/TECHNICAL SELECTION

- <http://collegeclicktv.com/>
 - <http://www.anycollege.com/>
 - <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/>
1. Make a list of your top five colleges
 - a. Dream College # 1 _____
 - b. Dream College # 2 _____
 - c. College You will HOPEFULLY get into #3 _____
 - d. College You will PROBABLY get into #4 _____
 - e. College You will DEFINITELY get into #5 _____
 - 2. Sign up for at least three college tours (examples below)
 - <http://usfweb2.usf.edu/Admissions/campus-visit.aspx>
 - <http://www.admissions.ucf.edu/about.asp?FirstSub=infosess>
 - <http://www.rollins.edu/admission/admissioninfo/visit-campus/schedule-a-visit.html>
 1. Campus Tour DATE: _____
 2. Campus Tour DATE: _____
 3. Campus Tour DATE: _____
 - 3. Write an "email" to send to all your selected colleges
 - Email your college #1 _____
 - Email your college #2 _____
 - Email your college #3 _____
 - Email your college #4 _____
 - Email your college #5 _____

Sample Email

Dear _____ College/University,

I'm writing to find out information regarding your university. At this point, I am interested in information regarding admissions, financial aid and housing. In addition, I would greatly appreciate any information concerning scholarships or grants.

I have attached my academic resume for your review and am looking forward to hearing from your university.

Sincerely,

Your Name

