



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

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#### Dear Readers:

Many of our students and parents have asked us for information about college interviews. Barry Sysler, Ph.D., contributed this article as part of our series of articles written by college admissions consultants in the Philadelphia area.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Daniel Ascher, M.Ed.  
President

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#### The ABCs of College Interviews



By Barry Sysler, Ph.D.  
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In this article I will provide you with information and tips about the



#### A+ High School Checklist for May

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring is introducing a new

college interview process.

There are three main types of college interviews: evaluative, informational, and financial aid. A college's admissions office uses an evaluative interview to gather information to supplement the information provided in the student's application. Informational interviews are used to recruit students. Financial aid interviews are for discussing the student's financial obligations and aid options. Financial aid interviews occur only after a student is accepted at a college. Of the three types of interviews, only the evaluative interview affects the admissions decision.

Check with the schools to which you are applying to find out each school's specific interview policy. A growing number of colleges no longer offer campus interviews. Others delegate that task to a network of alumni interviewers.

Don't stress out about your interview. The interview tends to confirm the overall impression you have provided in your application. One of the most important aspects of the interview is just being there for it. It is a measure of "demonstrated interest." In other words, it lets the admissions office know you are seriously considering attending the school. It is also a great opportunity for you to learn more about the school and determine if it's a good match for you. {continued}

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feature to this newsletter. Each month we will publish a suggested checklist, organized by grade level, to keep you on track with your academic and college prep activities.

#### FRESHMEN:

- Stay on top of your grades! Spring is in the air and it's easy to lose focus at this time of year. If you are struggling in a subject, take action: speak to the teacher, find out if there are any extra credit opportunities to raise your grade, and get extra help (or seek outside tutoring).
- Begin studying for finals now.
- Consult with your parents, teachers, and guidance counselor in selecting your courses for next year, keeping in mind that you should take the most challenging courses available to you.

#### SOPHOMORES:

- Your high school grades are the most important component of the college application process. If, say, you are teetering between a B and a C in a given subject, do something about it now.
- Begin studying for finals now.
- Consult with your parents, teachers, and guidance counselor in selecting your courses for next year, keeping in mind that you should take the most challenging courses available to you.
- Take our free ACT practice exam over the summer. Together with your PSAT scores, this will provide valuable information to help you determine whether to prepare for the SAT or ACT during your junior year. Call our office for details.

#### JUNIORS:

- Take stock of your grades and strive to improve or maintain them.
- Begin studying for finals now.
- Consult with your parents, teachers, and guidance counselor in selecting your courses for next year, keeping in mind that you should take the most challenging

## Featured Student

Nicholas Cordenner  
9<sup>th</sup> grade, Upper Moreland High School

Nick is one of several home-bound students that A+ tutors. Nick has been home-bound for medical reasons for two years, and our tutor started working with him as he began high school. Entering high school is hard on anyone, but it is even harder when you have to deal with constant, extreme pain. In the fall, Nick was not able to leave his house because of the pain and wasn't able to enjoy many of the activities other teenagers enjoy. Nick's family was truly remarkable during this time, spending the bulk of their days comforting and consoling Nick. Nick had all this to deal with, and he had to keep up his academics without the benefit of the classroom.

Nick personifies the phrase "smile through the tears." Sometimes, amidst his excruciating pain, he'll suddenly look up and crack a joke. He seems particularly attuned to celebrations. His quick sense of humor extends to acquiring or making humorous cards for every occasion. Anyone acquainted with Nick admires his spirit and perseverance.

Things are looking up for Nick since the beginning of 2007. His physical condition is improving due to new treatments. He and his family are now able to enjoy some activities away from home.

Since he has been feeling better, Nick also has been able to accomplish more of his schoolwork. Nick and his tutor

courses available to you.

- Are you taking the SAT or ACT this fall? If so, consider doing some test prep work over the summer. Call our office for more information.
- You will be applying to colleges this fall, so visit several colleges this summer. Try and visit while school is in session so you can get a feel for the campus when it is bustling with students and activity. Take a campus tour and try to sit in on a class if you can visit on a weekday.

### SENIORS:

- Congratulations! Most of you have already decided where you will be going to college next year, but don't let your grades slip. Your high school is required to send your year-end transcript to the college you plan to attend, and if they see a significant drop in your grades, your admission to the school can be revoked.
- Begin studying for finals now.
- Thank in person (or with a note) any teacher, coach, or other individual who wrote you a letter of recommendation or helped you with the college application process.
- Enjoy the remainder of your high school experience!

### Summer 2007

With our one-to-one tutoring, you can participate in all your favorite summer activities AND get a leg up on academic skills, study skills, and test preparation!

- Summer School (Make Up Courses)
- Academic Coaching/Study Skills
- PSAT/SAT/ACT Preparation
- SSAT/ISEE Private School Admission Exam Preparation
- Math Booster
- Vocabulary Booster
- Write Better Essays
- Academic Subject Tutoring (any subject)
- Wilson Reading System

have had to come up with creative solutions to make his learning effective and enjoyable despite his physical limitations. For example, Nick's tutor found the novels for his English class on audio tape from the library so that Nick could accomplish his required reading even when holding a book was too painful.

With all his medical difficulties and the shock of high school's increased academic demands, Nick often despaired about remaining an accomplished student. However, with the help of his tutor's "cheerleading" and encouragement, Nick has surprised even himself in his continuing academic improvement. Great job, Nick!

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