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### College Competitiveness: An Annotated Bibliography

Carnevale, Anthony P., and Jeff Strohl. "Our Economically Polarized College System: Separate and Unequal." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, vol. 58, no. 6, 30 Sept. 2011, pp. B32–35. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=66540039&site=ehost-live&scope=site](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=66540039&site=ehost-live&scope=site).

In the article, Carnevale and Strohl explain how the difference in quality and funding between more competitive colleges and community colleges is causing a large gap in the outcomes of the students attending them. They cite the lower expenditure per student between the different tiers of colleges, as well as the larger number of people attending them. Finally, they argue that since the lower-income students are mostly the ones attending lower-tier colleges, the lower graduation rate and worse outcomes are increasing the economic divide in society.

This source seems reliable as it is written by a research professor at Georgetown University's Center on Education and Workforce and the center's research director. Both writers seem to have very little bias, especially since they are supporting their arguments with data. The writers are trying to expose one of the sources of economic disparity in society to try to incite change in the college system.

This source will be very useful in my argument, especially since it helps argue my point that the college admissions process can be changed to help all students. Although it was not exactly what I thought it was about, I can still use it to display that the college system can be improved to help low-income students as well. Based on the other sources, I might change my argument to include economic disparity as a large factor.

Friedman, Hilary Levey. "Competitive kids: college admissions game starts early." *Education Next*, vol. 14, no. 1, winter 2014, p. 96. Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/A352376589/OVIC?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=99b3861e](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A352376589/OVIC?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=99b3861e). Accessed 6 Sep. 2023.

The author, Hilary Friedman, describes a group of elementary school students who are competitive in chess, dance, or other sports and are being pushed by their parents to have a better chance of getting into an Ivy League-level college. Moreover, the parents of these children believe that athletic involvement makes up for academic grades that are slightly lower than other candidates. Finally, she explains that it is unclear how competitive activity at such a young age matters for future success, but the parents believe that it will help their children succeed.

Friedman is a sociologist at Brown University, therefore the information is most likely reliable. The writing also has little opinion in it but illustrates the context behind these

competitive elementary school students. Her goal seems to be to inform the audience about such competitive children, and how their parents are involved in it.

This source provides some context for how some parents and children are preparing for the competitive college admissions process, but it is more about what they are doing, not about the impact it has on their lives. The information from this article could be used to explain how the competitive college admissions process is affecting even elementary school students. Thus, the article can be used to support my argument.

Hulse, Nia E. "Preferences in College Admission." *Society*, vol. 56, no. 4, Aug. 2019, pp. 353+.

Gale Academic OneFile, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/A596491154/AONE?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=27e3010d](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A596491154/AONE?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=27e3010d). Accessed 9 Sep. 2023.

The author, Nia Hulse, explains the college scandal where parents bought their children spots at top universities and then explains some of the causes and effects of preference-based admissions. She first explains the effect of legacy admissions on colleges like Harvard and Yale, informing the audience that almost half of Harvard students are in some way legacy. Then, the author goes on to illustrate the effect of affirmative action on the diversity of colleges, citing its origin and some of the problems that it has. Finally, she explains how race-based preferences are being phased out, and are being replaced by “adversity scores.” She also predicts that in the future elite universities will start choosing students on race-neutral policies.

This source provides useful information, especially with three of the main admissions preferences that are being discussed today. Compared to other sources in my bibliography, this source is more focused on the admissions process itself, not the effect it has on high school students. The goal of this source is to first explain the various changes in college admissions that have happened and then to display why and how college admissions will move towards eliminating race as part of the admissions process.

Although this source is on topic, it does not provide enough information about its effect on high school students to be used in my argument. If I was to move my argument to why the college system is flawed, then I would be able to use the information presented in the article. The article has also provided more context on the complexity of the college process and why it is so complex.

"Our first annual college-admissions survey: 'calm down!' the deans and counselors say.

Herewith an exploration of the American college-admissions system." *The Atlantic*, vol. 292, no. 4, Nov. 2003, pp. 104+. Gale Academic OneFile Select, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/A108967556/EAIM?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-EAIM&xid=97900fe8](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A108967556/EAIM?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-EAIM&xid=97900fe8). Accessed 6 Sep. 2023.

In this article, *The Atlantic* illustrates how the admissions systems for colleges are supposed to steer students towards their right college but have also been caught in the competition for prestige. American students view going to an Ivy League school as a win but going to safety or other colleges as a loss, a perspective fueled by the inherent status

competition that people are in. Finally, they argue that the appeal of low admission rate colleges due to their selectivity has become a deciding factor for ambitious students.

The source is a left-leaning news outlet, so there might be some bias present. Compared to other sources in the annotated bibliography, it is more focused on how the college admissions system is supposed to work, compared to how it is working. The goal of the source seems to be to explain to students and parents how the complex college admissions process works.

The writer explains some of the problems with the college admissions system today, but it does not line up exactly with my argument. I could use it to explain that the college system does not have to result in such extreme competition as it does today. It has changed my perspective on the topic, as now I am starting to believe that this competitiveness and resume “arms race” is a side effect of the college admissions system, not directly caused by it.

“Turning the Tide’ on college admissions.” UWIRE Text, 11 Feb. 2016, p. 1. Gale Academic OneFile, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/A443025212/AONE?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=6c505ad2](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A443025212/AONE?u=txshracd2560&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=6c505ad2). Accessed 9 Sep. 2023.

In this article, the author explains how one university, Western Oregon University, has attempted to remove the stress of college admissions for high school students applying there. First, Penaflo explains how heavy workloads, AP courses, and extracurricular

activities have been causing anxiety, sleep deprivation, and depression among students. Then, she illustrates the way that WOU has tried to combat some of the stress by going directly to high schools to give out same-day admissions.

The reliability of the source is questionable as it is not from a research journal, news outlet, or other reputable sources. Compared to other sources in the bibliography, this one is more focused on how one college has attempted to solve the stress of the college admissions process. The goal of the source seems to be to display how Western Oregon University is trying to help students in the college admissions process.

The source provides information about how one college has attempted to combat the stress of the competitive college admissions process which can be used in my argument to display a possible solution. This source can help me support my original argument of how the competitive college admissions process has put unnecessary stress on all students, even elementary school students. Although this source aligns with my argument, it does not provide enough value to be one of the main sources to support my argument.