

TED DEBATE CLUB

supplemental working sheet

D E B A T E S E S S I O N

Instruction

1. Follow the format of attached articles
 - a. Times New Roman font
 - b. 12 points font size
 - c. Double space
 - d. Bold typed title
 - e. Reference link at the end
2. Write briefly about the issue (Critical thinking)
3. Articles should have both position of the issue (Argumentation)
4. Main argument and counter argument should have supporting ideas.
5. Do not reference any of Korean publisher includes newspapers, journals, and books.

Important points to read argumentative articles

- Issue: Something that is debated and about which people have different opinions
- Main argument: Your opinion about an issue
- Supporting argument: Reason for your main argument
- Support: Support for your “supporting argument”
- Counter argument: Reason to support the other side of the argument
- Refutation: Reason to invalidate a counterargument (why it is untrue or weak)
- Concession: Agreeing with the opposing view
 - By including counterarguments and refutations, you make your argument stronger and more believable

About the issue

DEBATE LEADER SHOULD FILL OUT THIS FROM AND PUBLISH ON OPEN CHAT

Issue

Is it fair or unfair to allow ‘special admission’ to the celebrities.

Main argument (Point of view)

I agree on allowing special admission to the celebrities.

Counter argument (Opposing view)

I do not agree on giving special admission to the celebrities.

Need supporting ideas after the argument.

What do you think about Celebrities' Special Admission into University?

Chung-Ang University has diverse renowned departments which have long histories, great curriculums and faculty members and so forth. However, particularly the Department of Theatre and Film Studies of CAU is the best among all the same departments in Korea. There are a lot of actors and directors who play important parts in the Korean theatre and movie industry. In the past, most of those actors or directors tended to debut and become successful after their graduation. However, unlike the past, a considerable number of new students these days are already stars who have successful careers. The trend of young stars' college entrance resulted from the fads of teenage idol singers or actors have increased. For instance, 'Luna', one of the members of popular idol girl group, 'F(X)', Lee Min-ho who was a child actor and Jin Se-Yeon the actress are stars who passed CAU's entrance examination, utilizing their career and they are going to be freshmen next year. This phenomenon is not limited to our university. Many other universities in Seoul, such as Dong-Guk University, Sung-Kyun-Kwan University, Kon-Kuk University also will have stars attending. The problem is the public's recognition of celebrities' admission influences the public's opinion that they used their popularity, not their grades or ability, to gain admission.

Examples of celebrities' special admission of university

Case 1: Ko As-Sung, freshman in the College of Social Sciences, Sung-Kyun-Kwan University

Ko Assung is a famous actress who played a key role in the movie, 'The Host', which was a huge success. She got accepted to Sung-Kyun-Kwan University by using the 'self-recommendation selection', which is Sung-Kyun-Kwan University's unique selection process and one of early admissions. Her case became a huge issue because right after her acceptance, lots of testimonies that her Grade Average Point and CSAT

score were severely low came out. Especially because Bong Jun-Ho, the director of the movie 'The Host', wrote a recommendation letter for Ko Assung so she could have passed the entrance examination. Her admission is a typical case of the celebrity's own failing ability as a university student.

Case 2: Moon Geun-Young, Sung-Kyun-Kwan University student majoring Korean and Korean Literature
Moon Geun-Young's case also was a hot potato right after her admission was settled a few years ago. She also got into the university by the same type of entrance examination with Ko Assung and particularly she was one of the first successful applicants at the university. Although her academic ability was known to be better than Ko Assung's, she was blamed for a long time because her major was not relevant to her ability as an actress and the average Sung-Kyun-Kwan University students' academic results were far better than hers.

Case 3: Hyun-Ah, freshman of Kon-Kuk University

Hyun-Ah is a member of girl singer group, '4Minute', who is especially popular because of her powerful dance talent. That is why people were puzzled when the news that she would be a freshman at Kon-Kuk University majoring the Department of Arts. Not only that, people criticized her for getting a four year scholarship from the university because her admission screening was not proper to decide the rankings to select scholarship winners among the students and people thought she was affluent enough to pay the tuition unlike many other students.

Opinions of opposing celebrities' special admission

Korea is really famous all over the world for its zealous educational focus. Especially Koreans' desire to make their children attend prestigious universities is severe even though most people think this crosses the line. However, because the so-called 'educational background' affects people's lives including when they start their career, the phenomenon remains as it does. Despite this fact, celebrities attend those prestigious

universities easily compared to hard-studying common students and that is why a lot of people are against the current situation.

Current celebrities' special admission also seems to be used impurely for both the celebrities and the universities. The colleges want to advertise themselves using their star-students' popularity so that they can appeal to society members, especially their potential applicants: teenage students. On the other hand, the celebrities try to get the educational background or even worse case they use university attendance as a shield for delaying military service. Some entertainers who try to avoid military service attend Graduate School after graduating from their undergraduate university even if the major is not relevant to his career.

The phenomenon that already renowned people enter into each university's theatre or film studies department can disturb the discovery of new talented people. Since there are lots of people who want to be actors/actresses or directors who are struggling to prepare for their entrance into universities, celebrities' admission into college could be seen in a negative light as an action that interferes those future stars' opportunities. Not only has some said that celebrities don't need a college education because they already have their career and ability. Well-known celebrities, like actor, Yoo Seung-Ho and a singer, IU, announced that they will not go to university because they do not feel it necessary.

Opinions of approving special admission

Not all of celebrities pass universities' early admissions without going through formalities. Especially recent successful applicants who are celebrities tend to show their potential and abilities to get through universities' special admission. For instance, one of Chung-Ang University's soon to be freshman, Luna (a member of the girl group, 'F(X)') could become a successful applicant competing with other students during a two-step screening test. (Step 1: Performance Test 100%, step 2: Performance Test 70% + Grade Point

Average 30%). Another successful applicant of CAU this year, actor Lee Pung-Oon, could become a member of CAU after failing last year. Like those celebrities' cases, if they can prove their potential ability regarding a certain department, the celebrities can know the joy of being accepted on their own merits, not just because of the fact that they are well-known stars.

Celebrities' activities after they become the members of universities also contribute to the diversity of colleges. Unlike before, a lot of various types of entrance examinations have appeared to pursue the diversity of talented individuals. The College Scholastic Aptitude Test (CSAT, which is called the "Soo-Neung" in Korean) is not an absolute standard to select students anymore. With the existing entrance examination which reflects the CSAT score the most, new screenings such as the 'Global Reader Selection' and 'Admission Officer Selection' have appeared. In the same vein, it is right to disapprove of the trend that celebrities come into universities using their unique backgrounds and ability. It does not coincide with society's tendency which needs competent people with a variety of experiences and abilities.

What we have to think about is...

One of the biggest causes about celebrities' annual special admission into university is because some of them go to university not for real pursuing of learning, but for merely getting an educational background. And this causes other ordinary and diligent applicants to feel deprivation. Nevertheless, celebrities' special admission into universities is becoming one option to go to college and it also has positive effects such as helping universities reject conformity and better value diversity. Also, celebrities' special admission seems to settle down the entrance screening and is expected to make it be more invigorated. Along with the invigoration of the special admissions system, the universities and celebrities/students should try hard to demonstrate that their decision is not harmful for other students and our society. Students who are celebrities need to live campus lives actively and sincerely even if they are so busy with their entertaining business.

They have to be present for their courses and submit assignments as much as possible so that other students can admit the celebrities' qualification as members of the university. Members of universities, including the professors, also have to make efforts to treat the celebrities equally with other common students. Those celebrities are not just models for the universities but also students who have to be present, study at universities to get their credits and be granted their degrees. Accordingly, both the students and faculty members have to try their best to generalize fair academic management for celebrities after they enter universities.

Stars find easier way into college in exchange for school promotion

By Park Si-soo

Collegians, in particular those at Sejong, Dongguk and Chung-Ang University, are thrilled about young freshmen-age celebrities who are soon to land on their campuses.

Nearly 10 K-pop musicians and actors will add their names to university roll books this year alone. Among them are Oh Seung-a of Rainbow, Son Na-eun of Apink, Sandeul of B1A4 and actors, Yeon Jun-suk, Joo Da-young and Choi Ah-ra.

Oh, who turned 26, will study film art at Sejong University in Seoul. Sejong is the second university she will be enrolled at after an initial stint at Sangmyung University where she dropped out in 2008 due to a hectic schedule. "I applied again to deepen my knowledge about film and acting," Oh said after her admission was confirmed in November.

Son will be studying drama and film at Dongguk University in Seoul. Dongguk is widely known as the alma mater of many big name artists such as Yoona and Seohyun of Girls' Generation, Jisoo of Tahiti, actors Choi Min-sik, Park Shin-yang, Han Suk-kyu, Yoo Jun-sang, actress Kim Hye-soo, Go Hyun-jung and Lee Mi-yeon. "Although she made her debut and currently works as a singer, she is considering expanding her career into acting in the long run," Son's management agency said.

Sandeul, whose real name is Lee Jung-hwan, of K-pop boy band B1A4 will study at Myongji University, majoring in film and musicals. The 21-year-old has experience of featuring in several musicals. "Sandeul has keen interest in musical and other forms of stage performances," the band's management agency said. "He is very happy with his major."

Yeon is a newcomer to the prominent performing arts department at Chung-Ang University. The school, along with Dongguk, is seen as one of the most successful incubators of actors and actresses. Its notable alma maters include Hyun Bin, Ha Jung-woo, Park Joong-hoon, actresses Ko So-young and Kim Hee-ae. Top actor Kim Soo-hyun, Go Ara, Girls' Generation's Yuri and Sooyoung are currently enrolled there.

Lingering question

Entering university is in many ways an important chapter in one's life that is often gladly celebrated. In reality, however, not everyone does so as far as entertainer-turned-freshman is concerned. It is widely rumored that school authorities tend to strike "behind-the-scenes" deals with entertainers in the process of recruiting new students.

Critics claim entertainers see their application accepted in exchange for playing publicity and promotional roles for their schools, an increasingly important task in the face of declining student enrollments, a dismal reflection of the country's recent low birth rate. School promotional activities are mostly non-paid work, but sound like sweet deals for celebrities who enter with "preferential" treatment.

For that reason, critics are urging education authorities to take closer look at the "special admission system," through which a large number of entertainers have landed on campus despite their relatively low academic achievements at high school. Most top celebrities are enrolled through the system in exchange for fulfilling their part of the "deal."

Most universities are calling the rumors baseless, arguing that they are always "fair and transparent" when it comes to student selection. That has still not convinced skeptics who believe that there are many celebrities whose advance to university might have been impossible without "something inappropriate" in the selection prospects.

For instance, in 2011 Chung-Ang University came under fire for admitting Luna of K-pop girl group f(X) into its very competitive performing arts department. Back then rumors had it that the 21-year-old made it into the department thanks to a "special favor" from the school. But Chung-Ang denied there was any undercover deal in the admission process.

Similarly, in 2010 Sungkyunkwan University was embroiled in a related brouhaha after accepting actress Ko A-sung into its psychology department. The backlash was bigger than other previous cases because she was enrolled in a non-artistic department. The school said Ko was qualified in all aspects to be admitted, but didn't disclose its scoring policy.

Professor of education Kim Kyung-hoi at Sungshin Women's University said people should realize that admission officials take various elements into consideration when screening applicants. He explained that it goes beyond high school records to include other indicators such as extracurricular activities.

"CSAT score is not everything," Kim said, referring to the state-administered College Scholastic Ability Test. "There are many more indicators with which we can measure each applicant's scholastic ability and potential. Given this, it's inappropriate for people to denounce a school only for having an entertainer enrolled on its student list."

Music professor Kim Seung-keun of Seoul National University echoed a similar view, but said domestic colleges are deficient in their ability to communicate with the public leading to the proliferation of rumors. He explained that given the right communication skills, universities should be able to convince the public that their admissions are carried out in a "fair and transparent" manner.

"Such a controversy reflects the fact that there are people who don't fully trust the admission system of universities," Kim said. "The primary work to do is restoring people's confidence in the system."

Reference

“Conflicting Views of Celebs on Campus.” *Koreatimes*, 3 Feb. 2014,

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