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Profile Assessment and Recommendations for Anoushka

Session time - 01/08, 7-8 pm PT

Assessing mentor and report by - **Jenny Duan**

Introduction:

Dear Anoushka and Family,

To reintroduce myself— I'm Jenny Duan, a Stanford student studying Artificial Intelligence. It's been a pleasure meeting with you, and I'm excited to share Anoushka's holistic profile assessment and recommendations for us to chart her path to her dream schools. After carefully evaluating Anoushka's profile, based on her responses to the evaluation form, and our assessment call notes, I am confident that—with the right strategies and tactics that I have identified below—Anoushka can build a strong profile to help her get into her dream Ivy, Top UC, T20 schools. I have crafted a very specific 2-year strategic & tactical roadmap. Additionally, I've proposed a personalized program to hit the ground running, further elaborating, strategizing, and executing this roadmap

Profile Evaluation: Anoushka's Standout Interests

1. **Anoushka demonstrates impressive curiosity and enthusiasm towards computer science and math.** She attends a large and competitive public school with limited opportunities to truly stand out among her class.
2. **Anoushka demonstrates impressive curiosity and enthusiasm towards computer science and math.** She attends a large and competitive public school with limited opportunities to truly stand out among her class.
3. **She has an impressive academic track record** and a perfect 4.0 GPA, which provides a strong foundation for competitive admissions applications. Her track record is strong, and her standardized test scores (to be taken) appear to be in line with T20 schools' benchmarks.

4. **Leadership in Music:** At school, she leads the acapella group, Viking Vocalists, and is a prolific vocalist who performs with the honors State choir.
5. **She demonstrates a unique passion for environmental advocacy and policy** and has implemented school-wide changes to reduce cafeteria waste while also organizing clean-up events.
6. **Anoushka balances her passions for STEM, service, and singing with grace.** With this lens in mind, I believe that Anoushka demonstrates a jack-of-all-trades, well-rounded skill set rare for her grade level. With strategic positioning, this can be a very compelling edge to her profile for elite college admissions.
7. During our assessment call, **Anoushka demonstrated a unique aptitude for learning computer science and strong initiative toward her goals.**

Profile Evaluation: Anoushka's Challenges and Struggles

Some of Anoushka's challenges I noticed during the assessment call include:

1. **She talked about feeling lost while creating her college list and searching for additional opportunities** in Computer Science. As a rising junior, this is the most critical year for developing and scaling the impact of her work and projects, as well as picking targeted schools to direct her attention to.
2. **Challenges in not being able to deepen her involvement in Computer Science.** To address this, during our session, we were able to highlight some specific solutions including Kode With Klossy, participating in and organizing Hackathons, conducting computer science research (especially in an area that aligns with her other passions for environmental justice and/or music), and starting a school club directed toward Women in STEM.

Top Weak Spots Identified for Anoushka

Anoushka's dedication to pursuing Computer Science is commendable; however, there are five specific areas of concern that urgently need targeted strategies and specific plans to address them, especially in light of the intense competition for top CS programs at top schools. Anoushka's most significant areas for growth at this point are her depth of extracurricular experience, awards, course rigor, summer plans, test scores (yet to be taken).

[Weak Spot 1] Extracurricular Depth and Community Impact: Anoushka is involved in several activities and her overlapping identities as a singer, school leader, and programmer are evident. However, Anoushka's extracurricular work needs to have a tangible, measurable impact on her community/communities. This is an integral thing that colleges look for and is paramount to her success as an applicant.

[Weak Spot 2] Awards Anoushka has not yet applied for or received any significant awards. This may be a hindrance to her college applications as she needs social proof of her aptitude—although I was immediately impressed with her skills, colleges want to see this reflected in prestigious national or international awards.

[Weak Spot 3] Summer Programs and Plan: The absence of any impactful projects or summer programs in Anoushka's profile is concerning. Time spent in programs like Inspirit AI can be reevaluated when identifying more strategic summer programs which requires year long meticulous planning and preparation. Summer involvements are especially important for schools like Stanford, and other Top 20, which evaluate specific essay questions asking what students do in the summers between their sophomore and junior years, and junior and senior years (the most critical periods for college applications).

[Weak Spot 4] Course Rigor: While Anoushka will have taken 7-8 AP classes by the time she graduates, many competitive schools look for at least 12. She should increase the number of AP classes taken in order to stay on top of the competitive landscape.

[Weak Spot 5] Test Scores (yet to be taken): Having standout test scores validates Anoushka's current track record as a diligent and attentive student. She should aim to score 1550+ on the SAT and receive a National Merit eligibility for her PSAT score, which will be taken later this school year.

Anoushka's Target Extracurricular Profile

Combining Anoushka's thorough assessment with my personal expertise and previous experience helping students I mentor receive acceptances at Stanford, top UCs, and countless Ivys, I propose the following tailored and specific strategies to address these weak spots head on.

[Strategy 1] Extracurriculars and Community Impact: Combining Anoushka's Aptitude, Passion, and Service

Objective: Depth and Impact Over Quantity. What Anoushka lacks is not the number of her extracurriculars but rather the depth and impact of her involvement with them. Here are my proposed strategies for each category of extracurricular.

How: Organizing Anoushka's Singing, Coding, and Environmental Advocacy into a Web. When evaluating an applicant's activities, they should be organized like a web, with each extracurricular connected with one another. Each extracurricular or passion should be able to be categorized into one of her main "hubs," with smaller connections to the others. On the Common Application, there are 10 spots for extracurriculars.

Specific Plan: Proposed Projects for Anoushka to Organize and Develop (highlighted). Here is how I propose Anoushka organize hers, alongside the scale and scope of each involvement. It is good to have a range of involvement levels, with at least 2 at the national level.

Passion - Singing

- Viking Vocalists (regional involvement)
- Honors State Choir (state involvement)

Aptitude - Coding

- [Competitive Summer Program] (national involvement)
- School-based coding club (with leadership commitment) (regional involvement)
- Computer Science research (state/national involvement)
- Hackathon organization (state/national involvement)

Service - Environmental Policy and Leadership

- Secretary of Octagon Leadership Council (regional involvement)
- Environmental Justice youth board (State/national involvement)
- Regional advocacy involvement - volunteering, nonprofit work, etc. (regional/state level)
- Environmental justice-based conference (national involvement)

This is a balanced list that includes activities that demonstrate Anoushka's intellectual aptitude, passion, and service.

Anoushka's Target Award's Profile

[Strategy 2] Awards: Applying and Winning Competitive Recognitions Tailored to Anoushka's profile

Objective: Competitive recognition to boost her application. **How:** Applying to awards that align with her profile in tech, arts, and service. (see end for more details on 1:1 help)

Specific Awards: Targeted awards for her profile

NCWiT Aspirations in Technology

YoungArts

NYTimes Student Essay Contest

[Strategy 3] Summer Program and Plan: Preparing and Applying to Targeted Prestigious Summer Programs

Objective: Secure Admission in at least 1 Prestigious Summer Program. Anoushka should aim to gain acceptance into a prestigious summer program. Such programs not only provide excellent learning opportunities but also stand out on college applications to Ivy, UC, Top 20 schools.

How: By Selectively Applying to Programs Aligned with her Interests and Strengths. Anoushka should concentrate on applying for a competitive (free) summer program to maximize her chance of admission to a top university. Competitive program admissions also function as awards. Competitive programs serve as a precursor to the college admissions process.

Specific Plan: Proposed Summer Programs for Anoushka. Based on her 3 core themes of CS/AI, Environment Advocacy, and Arts. Getting into these programs requires careful planning, starting applications early, strong projects or other submissions, crafting impactful essays, application review, and post-submission steps.

- AI Scholars @ CMU
- Kode With Klossy
- Bank of America Student Leaders
- Telluride Association Summer Program (TASP)
- Sunrise Summer Camp (environmental justice focus)

[Strategy 4] Course Rigor: Strategically Enrolling in Additional AP and Other College Level Classes

Objective: To take at least 12 AP classes by the time she graduates to demonstrate commitment to academic excellence. Will also help to position her as a well rounded profile. All this while ensuring it doesn't negatively impact her GPA.

How: Strategically enrolling for additional classes (which ones and when) . Choosing AP courses that align with Anoushka's passion, skills, and service interest. Taking College level courses that are not offered in her school.

Specific Plan: Strategizing the course selection aligned with her interest, difficulty, and timing. Also the no.1 critical thing in being able to achieve course rigor is time management and scheduling. Building a personalized Junior and Senior yearly schedule to allocate X hours on each track of the profile and activities including but not limited to AP , extracurricular, homework, clubs, volunteering, passion project etc. will help maximize impact with less time. (refer end for details on 1-on-1 help).

- Sign up for as many AP classes as possible during senior year, but do not take the tests in the subjects that your future university does not accept for credit
- This strategy maximizes the "high school rigor" assessed on Anoushka's application, an important factor for admissions

[Strategy 5] Extra Strategies: Unique Edge For Anoushka with Information on her Music Supplement

Since Anoushka is doing well in her SAT test preparation and hopefully would also aim for National Merit eligibility for her PSAT, I wanted to share one extra unique edge we can tap into for Anoushka.

Once I start working with Anoushka, we will be able to identify more such not so obvious edge opportunities that have significantly influenced the outcome of many students I have helped in the past. **The music supplement can be a unique edge to Anusha's profile.** It includes a 10-minute taping, a music resume, and a music letter of recommendation. If Anoushka is interested in this process, I am happy to provide additional information and detailed support to ace this. (see end for more details).

Complimentary: College List and Strategy for Anoushka (for research and brainstorming)

Typically it takes a few sessions with the student to brainstorm, strategize and firm up a target college list. Since it's one of the areas Anoushka needs immediate help on, I am really happy to share some initial thoughts and list for her to start researching and strategizing.

Objective: The goal should be to apply to 15 schools per cycle.

How: A strategy to do this is to apply to 5 reach, 5 target, and 5 safety schools. Here are some schools I believe could be a good for Anoushka based on her preferences (California/West Coast-based, strong CS program, either a large or small school).

Highly Competitive/Reach:

- Stanford University (California)
- Caltech (California)
- University of Washington CS (Washington)
- UC Berkeley (California)
- UCLA (California)
- USC (California)

Competitive/Target:

- UCSD (California)
- UC Irvine (California)
- UC Santa Cruz (California)
- UC Davis (California)
- Harvey Mudd (California)
- Cal Poly SLO (California)
- Claremont McKenna (California)
- Pomona College (California)

Non-Competitive (Safety):

- Santa Clara University (California)
- San Jose State University (California)
- San Diego State University (California)
- Oregon State University (Oregon)

Non-West Coast Schools to Consider:

- Rice University: Strong CS program, kind community
- Colby College: Competitive LAC in Maine. Brand-new, well-funded AI program
- Carnegie Mellon University: Top CS program in Pittsburgh
- UIUC: Top CS feeder school; public state school
- University of Michigan: large state school environment, competitive CS program

Once we start working together we will be able to further evaluate and iterate on this list with many other criteria and factors like programs, student-college match, future career aspirations etc.

Personalized 1:1 Program Proposal for Anoushka

2-Years College Preparation, College Applications & Admission Success 1:1 Program

Based on Anoushka's holistic assessment, strengths, weak spots, and tailored strategies to address those weak areas and strengthen her profile to maximize her chances to get into UCs, Top 20 schools, I would like to propose a 2 year comprehensive program plan to help Anoushka 1-on-1 with very specific and hands-on help in strategizing, planning, executing, and showcasing/ framing all the identified tailored strategies and goals in this report. My focus in the next 2-year will be to help Anoushka on the following to execute upon our identified strategies :

Junior Year: Focus on College Preparation

- **Strategic Profile Building:** Boosting extracurriculars, community impact, and winning awards.
- **Prestigious Summer Program:** Strategizing and preparing to get into at least 1 prestigious summer program.
- **Networking:** Cultivating relationships with teachers and counselors.

Senior Year: Concentrate on College Application & Admission

- **College Application Mastery :** All Common App and UCs - targeting various colleges, programs.
- **Essay Elevator:** All Common App & UC - Crafting compelling personal statements and supplementary essays.
- **Decision Making:** Weighing college offers and making the final choice. Waitlist, Appeal support included.

Detailed 2-Year Timeline For T20 Admission Success:

Junior Year (2023-24) - College Preparation

Fall 2022: Dive into Strategy, Information Gathering, and Proactive Initiatives

- Applications for awards begin
- Strategize and launch new clubs
- Take NMSQT Exam
- Take SAT Exam
- Gain leadership positions at school
- Network with teachers for letter of recommendation preparedness
- Begin any new nonprofit involvement or organizational leadership

Winter 2022-23: Drive Growth, Impact, and Application Success

- Applications for summer programs
- Continue award applications
- Begin academic research
- Further extracurricular impact

Spring 2023: Secure Opportunities, Engage in Growth, and Strategize Ahead

- Choose summer programs
- Further extracurricular impact
- Continue academic research

- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
- Begin scholarship applications (remember scholarships are also awards)
- Finalize college list

Junior Year Summer 2023: Seize Growth and Application Opportunities

- Admission to top/competitive summer program
- Further extracurricular impact
- Continue academic research
- Prepare music supplement
- Continue scholarship applications
- Finalize CommonApp Essay

Senior Year (2023-2024) - College Application & Admission

Fall 2023: Kick Off Application Season

- Apply to colleges REA/EA/ED via CommonApp, UC App, and individual applications
- Apply to scholarships
- Apply for national awards

Winter 2023-24: Push Through with Continued Applications and Contingencies

- Continue applying for colleges EDII and RD
- Write continued letters of interest for any deferrals
- Continue scholarship applications
- Continue national award applications

Spring 2024: Final Steps and Celebrate Achievements

- Decide on a college
- Celebrate your accomplishments!

Program Cadence Options

- **Weekly:** 1-hour weekly 1:1 sessions, with continuous support throughout the week for hands-on execution, roadblock removal, and progress checks. Execution, accountability, roadblock removal, drafting emails, professor outreach, progress heavy.
- **Bi-Weekly:** 1-hour bi-weekly 1:1 sessions, with bi-weekly post session support. Strategy, planning, and high level tactical support.
- **Optional:** Additional sessions for SAT/ ACT test prep etc.

Why am I the best mentor for Anoushka & why a 2 year journey together ?

1. **Shared STEM Background:** My foundation in STEM mirrors Anoushka's interests, providing her with relevant guidance based on shared experiences in CS.
2. **Women in CS Strategy:** My in-depth understanding of strategies tailored for women pursuing Computer Science ensures Anoushka has a competitive edge.
3. **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Anoushka's varied activities can be woven into a singular, compelling narrative. I specialize in this kind of storytelling.
4. **Navigating the "How" of executing all the strategies:** Anoushka may not yet know the intricate steps of seeking extracurriculars, structuring them, and aligning them with her overall profile. I'm here to demystify those with very specific and hands on help.
5. **Leveraging a Large Public School Experience:** Drawing from my experiences, I can provide strategies tailored to students from larger public schools, ensuring Anoushka stands out.
6. **Music Supplement Expertise:** I understand the significance of the music supplement and how it can provide an edge to Anoushka's application. It's not just about showcasing talent but integrating it as a powerful extracurricular and reference point for letters of recommendation.
7. **Coherent Framing and Showcasing:** My expertise lies not only in helping Anoushka execute and excel on all identified goals and tracks, but throughout connecting all her work coherently, framing and showcasing in a way that's optimized for each of her target school
8. **Long-term Engagement Benefits:** Two years might seem lengthy, but this time frame is needed at the least to make significant progress on all the 5 weak areas identified:
 - **Strategizing and Cohesion:** We'll weave every accomplishment and pursuit into a cohesive narrative.
 - **Accountability & Progress:** With recurring check-ins, I'll ensure Anoushka stays on track and evolves her profile effectively.
 - **Specific Guidance:** From summer programs to academic pursuits, I'll be there every step of the way.
 - **Comprehensive College App Preparation:** Gathering materials, strategizing for letters of recommendation, and more take time. Starting in junior year ensures thoroughness.

By partnering with me, Anoushka gains more than just a mentor; she secures a dedicated ally, committed to highlighting her strengths, addressing her challenges, and positioning her ideally for her dream college.

I look forward to the opportunity to help Anoushka achieve her goals over the next two years through this custom plan. During our sessions, I hope to instill a sense of personal accountability, motivation, and drive for Anoushka. I look forward to the opportunity to further develop her passion, impact, and involvement toward future personal and academic success.

Best Regards,

Jenny Duan
Ivy Mentors