

Dating, Marriage, and the Intricacies of Academic Relations

Volume I

Preface

The following research is dedicated to the intense pursuit of academia and sacrifices made by striving students worldwide. We hope to unveil the secrets and true nature of academic success for future generations and aspiring academics worldwide.

Chapter 1: Love at First Sight

The concept of “equality”, “merit”, and “compatibility” are mere misnomers and are useless in the pursuit of academic acceptance. Think back to your first days as an early pubescent. Did you fall for the nice, well put-together nerd with straight A’s?

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Of course not!! The academic industrial complex is no different; what differs in appearance is made up for by its fervent desire for emotional chase and satisfaction. The thrill of the chase, the constant doubt of the foundation and integrity of the relationship, the suspense – these are the defining features of the most successful academic pursuits to exist. We will now begin to unpack the true nature of academic success, starting with the application.

When applying for higher education, your first instinct may be to give it your all. You pull all-nighters to craft your personal statements to maximize every single possible word allocated to you per school. Weeks and months go by as you scrounge every line of your essays, looking for every possible way to impress the all-powerful committee that stands before you. However, if you thought this was a surefire way to reach the universities of your dreams, think again.

Imagine the first moments of a potential romance – a fleeting glance, a hint of eye contact, the spiking of heart rate and blood pressure as both cortisol and anticipation flood your bloodstream. You sprint towards the person of interest, full speed, and declare as loudly as you can: “I LOVE YOU”. Do you think that you have just secured your forever partner with this emboldened declaration? No! Instead, screaming ensues, you’re suddenly grabbed by the bouncer, and before you know it, you find yourself laid out on the sidewalk, looking at the doors of the bar you just walked through minutes before, the echoes of “creep!” and “freaky!” reaching your forlorn ears.

Why would you then throw yourself, full force, at the admissions committee who doesn't even know who you are? Instead, just like the real world, you must maintain a mysterious aura, giving glances and snippets of interest without revealing your true levels of desire. Pique their interest, make them yearn, and do not allow your desperation to show – that is the key to success for the stage in your academic conquest. Thus, instead of writing a special essay for each academic institution that you yearn to enter, restrain yourself. Instead, ask yourself this: if an essay this short is enough for this esteemed university, why should it not be enough for the rest? Society tells us that we should not bend our character to appeal to potential partners, so why then should we do so for the sake of academic pursuit? Therefore, remain firm in your representation of yourself, and be certain that what is good enough for the essay with the lowest word count will be sufficient for all other universities.

At this point you may be wondering, don't I need to show as much of my strengths as possible to appeal to the Committee? Why would I waste characters that could be so valuable to inflating the perception of my meager accomplishments? If this were a typical essay of persuasion, this mindset would be correct. But, we must remember, this is not just any piece of writing. The empty characters in your essay are not a weakness, but instead a bold statement. In other words, the silence you leave becomes the loudest statement of your most valuable asset – **your confidence**. Think back to the world of dating, and the example provided earlier. What was the biggest blunder of the desperate hopeless romantic? You guessed it, his desperation! Instead of embracing himself and emanating a suave, secure vibe, our poor soul instead threw everything he had at the unsuspecting prospect, simultaneously terrifying them and eliminating all sense of dignity and self-worth in their eyes.

While the admissions committee may not experience the physical terror of a fully-grown adult sprinting towards them declaring their love, they definitely still sense the desperation and insecurity that reeks from a maximum-word-count essay. In this vein, it should be clear now that the omission of text, the self-restraint from oversharing, is a crucial asset in the 5D chess game that is academic admissions. Instead of thinking, “are they done yapping?” like the thousands of essays before, the Committee is suddenly blindsided by the brevity of your confident statement. In the blink of an eye, the Committee must rapidly come to terms with their new reality – that for the first time in forever, they must be the ones to pursue. It is this paradigm shift, this uprooting of their security, that will force them to acknowledge you as an unstoppable force that is now moving an immovable object. In the same way that mysterious aura and a feigned indifference makes one irresistible to others, you too have established yourself as a rent-free tenant within the Committee's heads. At this point, they have no choice but to investigate this anomaly further and chase after your intoxicating energy, if for no other reason than to discover the secret to your confidence when so many before you have fallen.

Congratulations, and welcome to the beginning of your exciting academic journey.