How to Think About Thinking About College

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What Do Colleges Want?
What Do Colleges Want?

- Intellectual Curiosity
- Contribution to Campus
CTY students are often:

- Busy
- Strong in multiple areas
Busy + Strong in multiple areas can make it challenging to know:

- what you are really interested in
- where your passions may be
- how to choose a path
- how to combine interests
Problems

1. Colleges have more qualified applicants than they can admit

2. Students starting the college search process outward
Solution

Students must start the college search process inward
What you can do

• Get to Know Yourself

• Get to Know Colleges

• Connect to Find Fit
Self Assessment

Identify: gain knowledge & insight

• Interests

• Strengths

• Values
Self Assessment

Resources

• Self reflection – interests, activities, learning style, personality

• Naviance – “Do What You Are”

• Assessment tools – school guidance, college guidebooks, CTY inventories
Self Assessment

Explore: gain exposure & experience

• Academic subject areas – content
  Class, independent study

• Colleges & Careers – research
  Informational interviews, shadow

• Experiential learning – hands on
  Internship, job, volunteer
Self Assessment

Resources

• Family
• Friends
• Teachers
• Counselor

• Professional Organizations
• Summer Programs
• Companies
The more knowledge you have about yourself, your interests and the college admissions process,

• the more targeted your college list

• the more targeted and convincing your applications

• (hopefully) less stress
Final Thoughts

• Keep an open mind
• Make the most of your opportunities
• Good luck!
Questions?