

THE ABC'S OF THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW

Okay. Here you are: frightened and trembling, confronting your first college interview! What do you do?
RUN! On second thought, RUN FASTER!

Only one thing will end your panic: **PREPARATION!** If you know your goals and needs and you've done your homework on the college, you'll be prepared! (Don't make the all-too-common mistake of commenting, "I'm really looking forward to coming to this school to major in Art Therapy," only to find out that the school does not offer Art Therapy! OOPS!)

WHY THE INTERVIEW?

Start by recognizing that the interview is not as one-sided as you may fear. It's a shared conversation between two intelligent people, each investigating and informing the other, each "selling" his wares. The college admissions counselor wants to know how you'll fit into the program and wants to "sell" you on this wonderful bastion of education; you want to know if the college fits into your scheme of things and you want to "sell" your assets as well! Just think of it as a friendly game of scratch and sniff. If he likes the way you smell, you're in — and vice versa!

In the interview you'll have an opportunity that you did not have in the application and essay — the chance to represent yourself *in person!* You can be your own advocate! And remember this: the interview is especially beneficially if you are a borderline candidate.

THE TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

- ❖ an interview with the admissions counselor on the campus
- ❖ an interview with an assigned alumnus assigned to you by the admissions office (this person may live in your area, and you will not have to travel far)
- ❖ an informal interview with the admissions counselor in a small group of students
- ❖ a special interest interview with the athletics director, art professor, etc.
- ❖ the audition with the music director, drama director, etc.

KNOWING YOURSELF

Preparation is the key to overcoming "interview anxiety." A major element in preparation is finding out your goals, needs, and wants. Examine the chart below carefully.

✓ Analyze your personality:

supportive
ambitious
outgoing
sincere
tenacious
conservative

reflective
flexible
discerning
sensitive
competitive
versatile

tolerant
agreeable
deliberate
open-minded
energetic
liberal

persuasive
quiet
attentive
creative
progressive
etc. ...