



The Short Story: College Planning, Essay and Application Support (Junior Start)

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Package Description

The Short Story 20 hour advising package defaults to 15 hours of live virtual meetings and up to 5 hours of asynchronous time to be spent on review of materials, research, written feedback, and general correspondence (summaries, task lists, check-ins) as per the needs and direction of the student. This balance may be adjusted by mutual agreement upon the request of the student or the recommendation of the advisor.

Meeting One (90 minutes) will be a comprehensive advising intensive. We'll discuss transcripts and test scores, evaluate activities and interests, and explore college expectations and hesitations. If there's an IEP or 504, we'll talk about that, too. The student will leave with next steps in hand, a few colleges to explore, a detailed family questionnaire—this will be sent to the parents—and Meeting Two scheduled on the advisor's calendar.

Meeting Two (60 minutes) will follow up on the family questionnaire and begin to roadmap the application cycle. In addition, we will onboard the student into College Planner Pro, which we'll use for communication, tracking tasks, college list building, analysis of admissions probability, and general deadline/project management. We'll also establish an advising cadence by scheduling our next 3-5 meetings.

Meetings 3-15

One size does not fit all. Each student's journey through the application process will be unique. Our meeting cadence will take into account the need for career and curriculum advising, the type and number of applications, and the rigor of any supplemental, honors and stealth essays, in addition to the student's individual needs and priorities.

Advising hours prior to August 1st may focus on:

- Identification and development of leadership, self-study, unique activities
- Summer enrichment planning; community outreach; legacy projects
- Strategies for academic success and additional rigor; SAT/ACT support

Creation of timelines and task lists, personalized roadmapping
Exploration of interests and majors; introduction to interdisciplinary careers
Strategies for requesting meaningful, effective letters of recommendation
Finalizing a balanced and appropriate college list
Campus visit preparation and follow-up (virtual and in-person)
Admissions correspondence support
Resume review, social media search and clean-up; Linked-In
Common App activities list drafting
Essay brainstorming, personalized prompts
Writing tutorials; close readings of successful essays

Advising hours after August 1st may focus on:

Continued exploration of programs, interests and majors
Strategic, meaningful research in support of supplementals
Intensive focus on personal essays and key supplementals
Honors college and scholarship essays
Finalization of Activities lists/Additional Information section of the Common App
Continued admissions correspondence support
Mock interviews and/or interview preparation (when relevant)
Additional scholarship search and support (as time permits)
Review of LOCI and admissions offers
Other (as directed by the student)

The advising relationship will terminate when the terms of the package are fulfilled (20 hours) or on May 1st of the student's senior year, whichever comes first. All Short Story students receive free passes to Manette's Virtual Office Hours.