

# Top 11 recommendations and reminders (based on mistakes I see)

1. Contact admissions reps at the colleges you're interested in.  
Questions are okay! They want to hear from interested students.
2. Take advantage of college visits and college fairs.
3. Research (and apply) to target schools, not just safety and reach schools.
4. Determine if cost is going to be a factor, and if so, be mindful of this throughout the application process, not just at the end.
5. Ask for letters of recommendations early (minimum of two weeks before you need them, and hopefully much more than that).
6. Don't set up duplicate ACT or College Board (SAT) accounts.
7. Send in your official ACT and/ or SAT scores to each college you apply to.
8. Get your applications turned in before the deadline.
9. Request a transcript in Naviance when submit your application.
10. On a personal essay, reflect on something that is unique to your experiences, personality, or perspective- use caution with commonly used topics (community service, sports injuries, illness, divorce...). Focus on what you want to say, not on what you think they want to hear.
11. Keep perspective- Enjoy your senior year, and be excited for the opportunities that await you after graduation!