

# A P P L I C A T I O N

1. Do write legibly, and take the time to check spelling.
2. Do spend time on the essay. Use correct grammar and double check all spelling. Have someone proofread both your application and your essay before you submit it.
3. Do have your application in on time.
4. Do choose the teachers who know you and who will write your recommendations carefully. Sometimes the teacher of the class in which you are receiving the best grade is not necessarily the person who is best qualified to write you a recommendation. Perhaps the best person to write a recommendation can address a low grade but also discuss your good work ethic, class participation, etc.
5. Do write your essay on a unique topic. If you feel the need to write about a topic that is usual, use an unusual slant. If you are very active in the marching band, and your talent for playing the trombone is mentioned throughout your application...don't write your essay about your trombone. Instead write about your unique ladybug collection. Readers want to see breadth of interests.
6. If you're comfortable with doing so, include a picture. If nothing else, it might help the readers put a name with a face. If you have interviewed, it might jog the memory of the reader who had interviewed you.
7. Do make sure your photocopies are clear if you are using the Common Application.
8. Do put your name on every piece of paper sent to the college.
9. Do treat each question as if it is important, and make sure to answer the question that is asked. Just because a question is as simple as "Describe how you spent the last two summers," doesn't mean that it deserves a simple answer. Colleges are interested in how well you write and in what other activities you're engaged in. Take the opportunity to show them these things while answering seemingly simple questions.
10. If you attach a resume, do make sure it is user friendly.
11. Don't go overboard in form if it takes away the substance of your application. Graphics, fancy borders, and italicized fonts will not change the fact that you were only involved in one extracurricular activity.

## DON'TS

1. Don't have your mom (or your mom's secretary) type or fill out any portion of your application. Readers can tell the difference. You're going to have complete responsibility for your work in college-start now!
2. Don't submit tons of extra letters and references. (Dad's dentist, Mom's hairstylist, and "somebody who knows somebody" really aren't going to help you get in.) It's better to send in a few really solid letters of recommendation than a stack from people who don't know you very well.
3. Don't tell a sob story, just to tell a sob story. Admissions committees respect students who have been through rough times, but won't base their decisions on these circumstances. If the situation is something that has truly affected you, then feel free to write about it, but cover other things throughout your application, as well.
4. Don't hide information that might effect your application. If you had mono for six months and your grades deteriorated. Submit a statement explaining the decline.
5. Don't send your "Why I Love Hamilton" essay to St. Lawrence. You would be surprised how many times that happens.
6. Don't call everyday to check on the progress of your application.
7. Don't get senioritis. Senior years grades DO count-both before and after decision letters are mailed out!
8. Most importantly....don't sell yourself short. Work hard in high school, and your work will pay off. Be proud of your accomplishments.