

PSAT, Now What?

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The College search process: Where to start?

- Think about what you want in a school
 - Location? Size? Athletics? Academic Programs? Campus Life? Cost?
- Start Visiting Schools NOW!!
 - Visit schools on an active day (Classes in session)
 - See as much of the school as you can: Student union, dining hall, dormitories, classrooms, social events, professor's office hours. ASK current students how they like the school & why.



College Search Process Cont.

- Other ways to do research
 - Ask lots of questions. (Anyone who's been to college can be a resource)
 - Parents, teachers, counselors, friends, neighbors, coaches, etc.)
 - See board in counseling center with list of alum and where they are. Contact them!!
 - Take virtual tours of colleges online. Contact alum and current students.
 - Use college search websites (www.collegeboard.com, see handout for more ideas)
- Remember: It's about finding a good fit for YOU.
 - What does that mean?



Developing Your List of Schools

- Apply broadly
 - Safety schools, Possible admits, & Reach schools
- Quality over Quantity
- Only apply to schools that you would be willing to attend
- List should be finalized by the end of your junior year



College Requirements

- Academics
 - Complete A-G Requirements
 - If applying out of state, check school's requirements
 - Challenge Yourself!
- Extracurricular Activities (athletics, community service, clubs, leadership, etc.)
 - Quality over Quantity
 - Do things that you are interested in
- Letters of Recommendation
- College Entry Exams (SAT, ACT, & SAT Subject Tests)



Resources Available

- SAT Test Preparation
 - Pete Fingerhut @ Coastside Prep
 - CSM Community Ed Prep Course
 - Test prep websites
- PLP workshops with counselors
 - Post-secondary options
- Parent College & Financial Aid Night in October
- College Application Workshops throughout application filing period
- Meet with your student's counselor



Interpreting Your PSAT Results...

Pete Fingerhut