



Hey everyone! As you start building your list of colleges to apply to, I just wanted to use the experiences of past applicants to offer some insight.

There seems to be a **general misunderstanding of what is a real “match, safety, and reach”** when applying to college. People often think that it only takes “good grades” and “good test scores” to get into Harvard or Stanford, when, in reality, there are a lot of other factors that contribute as well ([many of which are unfair/out of our control](#)).

Personally, I ^(Shay) recommend **applying to as many match schools as you can**. Many people love to overhype Ivy League schools, MIT, Caltech, Stanford, etc., but there are so many other schools that are just as wonderful without the name. I’m not a huge fan of the dream school mentality, but if you want to fall in love with a school, **please love it for something other than the prestige**. People often don’t realize that when you take away Harvard’s name, it’s very similar to many other private schools that are much easier to get into (and, thus, more realistic to apply to).

I’ll provide more of my thoughts in my own section down below, but, without further ado, here’s a compilation of past experiences that will hopefully help you make the best decisions for when you apply to college. Hope you find this useful!

Best, Shay (Cleeshay)

...and special thanks to Sazabi (sazabi), Cham (cham), Nephany (Neph), and Scratch (Scratch)

SEE ENTRIES BELOW

NOTA BENE

- The entries collected represent a very competitive/highly skewed applicant pool. This is **not** representative of what is typical.
- Remember the ratings are self-assessed; essays, ECs, recs, and hooks were not evaluated on an objective scale.
- We strongly recommend that you look at the entries as a collective **instead** of individually. Notice the trends and patterns.
- After going through the entries, make sure you look at the **Compilation of Reflections & Advice** section at the end!

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1. **Do not overestimate yourself** as an applicant—what you may think is a match school might actually be a reach.
 - a. e.g., entries 3, 6, 10, 16, 19, 23, 24.
2. Apply to **a lot more safety/matches** than reaches.
3. It takes **a lot more than GPA/test scores** to get into highly competitive schools.
 - a. e.g., entries 4, 6, 17*, 22.
4. Test scores are just a **benchmark**. Generally speaking, retaking a 33+ or a 1510+ is a waste of time/money for **most** “elite” schools.
5. Be sure to **spend a lot of time on every single essay**. Draft, redraft, and edit each one several times. Essays are crucial to how college differentiate top students.
6. When comparing yourself to other applicants, **avoid comparing yourself to an outlier** (i.e. a student with a 30 ACT and 3.0 GPA who got into Stanford). They are the exception, not the norm, and they usually have something like exceptional ECs or a hook to compensate.
7. Even with applicants as strong as these, **only a few** were able to get into their “dream schools.”

APPLICANTS BY SCHOOL

Entries 2, 4, 8, 11, 12, 15, 17*, 20, 24, 26 applied to **LACs**.

- **ACCEPTED:** 2, 4, 8, 11, 15
- **REJECTED:** 12, 17*, 20, 24, 26

Entries 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17*, 22, 24, 26 applied to **Cornell**.

- **ACCEPTED:** 1, 15
- **WAITLISTED:** 11
- **REJECTED:** 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 16, 17*, 22, 24, 26

Entries 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17*, 20, 22, 26 applied to **Stanford**.

- **ACCEPTED:** 13, 15
- **REJECTED:** 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17*, 20, 22, 26

Entries 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17*, 22 applied to **Harvard**.

- **ACCEPTED:** 15
- **REJECTED:** 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17*, 22

Entries 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17*, 19, 22 applied to **Columbia**.

- **ACCEPTED:** 15
- **WAITLISTED:** 5, 11
- **REJECTED:** 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 17*, 19, 22

Entries 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 20, 26 all applied to **UC Berkeley**.

- **ACCEPTED:** 2, 8, 9, 11
- **WAITLISTED:** 6
- **REJECTED:** 7, 12, 16, 20, 26

Entries 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 20, 23, 26 all applied to **UCLA**.

- **ACCEPTED:** 2, 8, 9, 11, 20, 26
- **REJECTED:** 3, 5, 6, 12, 16, 23

**Junior applicant*

A look into how Williams (and other top privates) ranks its candidates:

Class rank	grades	program	program	program	essay	school support	verbal	math	composite	SAT II	ACT	AP
AR 1: Valedictorian/top or close to top	A record	Exceeding most demanding program	evidence of deep intellectual curiosity	passionate interest in particular discipline	Exceptional	Exceptional	770–800	750–800	1520–1600	750–800	35–36	mostly 5s
AR 2: Top 5%	Mostly A record	Most demanding program	many AP and Honors courses	highly significant intellectual curiosity	Outstanding	Outstanding	730–770	720–750	1450–1520	720–770	33–34	4s and 5s
AR 3: Top 10%	Many A grades	Very demanding program	AP and Honors courses	significant intellectual curiosity	Strong	Strong	700–730	690–720	1390–1450	690–730	32–33	4s

Quote From Williams Admission Committee: ***“In general, all applicants with a combined [average] academic rating of 3 or higher are rejected at this point, unless the first and second readers have identified one or more “attributes” that warrant additional consideration.*”** (Source: <http://ephblog.com/2010/12/02/academic-rating-at-williams/>)

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ENTRY #01 – SAZABI (attending Cornell University)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Wassaboooo	GPA (UW and W): 3.96 UW and 4.65 W	Class Rank: 6/392	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1450/34	SAT II (optional): 740 M2/740 PHYS	Top ECs: Robotics, Art	Top Honors: AP Scholar and NMC
Intended Major: ECE	Ethnicity/Gender: Mixed (Asian/White)/F	Other Hooks: Fem in stem what's this OwO	State: Florida

Initial dream school: Stanford	Other important notes/info: GATech was dream prior to Stan. Did Stanford REA/GATech EA.
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6	ECs: 6.5	Recs: 7	Hooks: 6
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
• FSU - LIKELY	• UF, GATech - LIKELY	• Stanford, Cornell - UNSURE

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
• FSU - ACCEPTED	• UF - ACCEPTED • GATech - DEFERRED then ACCEPTED	• Cornell - ACCEPTED (LIKELY LETTER) • Stanford - REJECTED

ENTRY #02 – Cham (attending Middlebury College)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name:	GPA (UW and W): 3.9 UW, 4.4 W	Class Rank: Top 5%	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1540 SAT	SAT II (optional): 740 Math 2 760 Bio E	Top ECs: Research at a university	Top Honors: AP Scholar
Intended Major: Biology	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian/Male	Other Hooks:	State: California

Initial dream school: Pomona College 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌	Other important notes/info:
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 7	ECs: 7	Recs: 5	Hooks: 1
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community College, UCR - LIKELY 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCSB, UCSD, UCI - LIKELY Vassar - UNSURE 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pomona, Middlebury, Swarthmore, Bowdoin, WUSTL - UNLIKELY Colby, UCLA, UC Berkeley, USC - UNSURE
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community College - Didn't apply UCR - ACCEPTED 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCSB, UCSD, UCI, Vassar - ACCEPTED 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middlebury, UCLA, UC Berkeley, USC, Colby - ACCEPTED Bowdoin, WUSTL - WAITLISTED Pomona, Swarthmore - REJECTED
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ENTRY #03 – Chris (attending NYU Shanghai)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Chris N.	GPA (UW and W): 3.2 UW, 3.3 W	Class Rank: Not ranked	Type of High School: Very small rural (<25 students total)
SAT/ACT: 1410 PSAT, 32 ACT 1st sitting, 33 ACT 2nd sitting	SAT II (optional): None	Top ECs: Varsity basketball/CC, club tennis, played in 5 bands, 200+ volunteer hours, 2 years student council, 1 year mock trial, 2.5 years choir	Top Honors: NMSQT Commended Scholar, Presidential Service Award, Honor Roll 2 years
Intended Major: Business & Finance/Econ, intending law/business graduate school	Ethnicity/Gender: Caucasian, East Asian (Taiwanese) Gender: Male	Other Hooks: Unique location, moved 4 times	State: Wisconsin

Initial dream school: UChicago	Other important notes/info: No APs (self-study), 0 EFC, No EA/ED, upward trend GPA junior/senior year
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 4	ECs: 6	Recs: 7	Hooks: 3
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UMass Amherst, JMU - LIKELY SUNY Binghamton - UNSURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northeastern, Occidental, Reed, UCI, UW-Seattle - UNSURE UVA - LIKELY (triple legacy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford, Columbia, UChicago, Northwestern, UCSD, UCLA, WUSTL, USC, Tulane, Middlebury, Pomona - UNLIKELY NYU, Tulane, Kenyon, Grinnell - UNSURE

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UMass Amherst, JMU, SUNY Binghamton (University Scholar) - ACCEPTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northeastern, Occidental, UCI, UW-Seattle, UVA - REJECTED Reed - WAITLISTED then REJECTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford, Columbia, Northwestern, UCSD, UCLA, WUSTL, USC, Tulane, Middlebury, Pomona - REJECTED Kenyon, Grinnell, UChicago - WAITLISTED then REJECTED NYU - ACCEPTED (Shanghai campus)

ENTRY #04 – Hippie (attending Barnard College)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: destroyedbyhippiepowers	GPA (UW and W): 3.95 UW, school doesn't provide W	Class Rank: Top 6%	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1510/34	SAT II (optional): 800 M2/610 USH/600 Lit	Top ECs: SciOly, Student Council, service & activism	Top Honors: AP Scholar, Scholar Athlete, NMC
Intended Major: Neuroscience	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian/F	Other Hooks: Literally none	State: GA

Initial dream school: Brown	Other important notes/info: Applied ED to Brown and EA to UGA and GSU
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6	ECs: 4	Recs: 6	Hooks: 2
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">GSU, UGA - LIKELY	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Oxford@Emory, GA Tech - LIKELYEmory - UNSURE	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Barnard, Cornell - UNSUREBrown, Columbia, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Wesleyan - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">GSU, UGA - ACCEPTED	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Oxford@Emory, GA Tech - ACCEPTEDEmory - REJECTED	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Barnard, Wesleyan - ACCEPTED (EARLY WRITE)Brown - DEFERRED then REJECTEDColumbia, Cornell, Northwestern, Vanderbilt - REJECTED
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ENTRY #05 – Chances (attending Ohio State University)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Chances	GPA (UW and W): (3.95 UW, 4.72 W)	Class Rank: 2/~760	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1550/36	SAT II (optional): 760 Chem, 800 M2	Top ECs: Model UN, Mock Trial, Theatre, Volunteering	Top Honors: AP Scholar, AIME Qualifier
Intended Major: Some Finance, Some Biochem	Ethnicity/Gender: White Male	Other Hooks: No	State: Ohio

Initial dream school: Columbia	Other important notes/info: Applied early to Columbia
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6	ECs: 4	Recs: 8	Hooks: 4
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miami U Ohio, UCincinnati, OSU - LIKELY 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GWU- LIKELY UMich, Case Western- UNSURE 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYU Stern- UNSURE Cornell, Columbia, Brown, Harvard- UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miami U, U Ohio, U Cincinnati, OSU - ACCEPTED 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UMich, Case Western - ACCEPTED GWU - WAITLISTED/REJECTED 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYU Stern, Brown - ACCEPTED Columbia - DEFERRED/WAITLISTED then REJECTED Cornell, Harvard - REJECTED
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ENTRY #06 – Vision (attending University of Washington)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Vision	GPA (UW and W): 3.85 UW / no W	Class Rank: No rank	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1470/34	SAT II (optional): 730 M2 / 700 Lit	Top ECs: Robotics, Marching Band, Water Polo, Girls Who Code, Software Intern	Top Honors: AP Scholar, NCWIT, Varsity Letters in Robotics
Intended Major: Computer Science	Ethnicity/Gender: Vietnamese/Female	Other Hooks: Dad who did Harvard MBA and NYU undergrad	State: Washington

Initial dream school: CMU	Other important notes/info: Diagnosed w/ ADHD & anxiety after grade drop junior year
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6	ECs: 5	Recs: 8-9 maybe 8.5	Hooks: 5
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rose-Hulman, UW Seattle, UC Irvine, UC Davis - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NYU, UC San Diego, Wellesley, UIUC - UNSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UC Berkeley, UCLA, Barnard - UNSURECarnegie-Mellon, Duke, Columbia, Cornell, Stanford, Harvard - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rose-Hulman, UW Seattle, UC Irvine, UC Davis - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UC San Diego, NYU - ACCEPTEDWellesley, UIUC - WAITLISTED/REJECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UC Berkeley, Barnard - WAITLISTED/REJECTEDUCLA, Carnegie-Mellon, Duke, Columbia, Cornell, Stanford, Harvard - REJECTED

ENTRY #07 – KnotTheory (attending California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: KnotTheory	GPA (UW and W): UW: approx. 3.6 / W: 3.94	Class Rank: 26/234	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1490/34	SAT II (optional): N/A	Top ECs: percussion (perf. + teaching), film (prod. + crit.), journalism, activism (public land access, env. justice), math team, NACLO	Top Honors: IB Diploma, AP Scholar, Nat'l Merit Finalist, various nat'l music honors, journalism awards for school newspaper (editor-in-chief)
Intended Major: Landscape Architecture	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian/Male	Other Hooks: deaf w/o hearing aids + mainstreamed	State: Hawaii

Initial dream school: University of Southern California	Other important notes/info: Grades took a hit at the end of junior year, but there was a bounce back in senior year.
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 9	ECs: 7	Recs: 6	Hooks: 6
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UH Manoa - LIKELY Penn State U - LIKELY Purdue U - LIKELY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Davis - UNSURE Cal Poly SLO - UNSURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Southern California - UNSURE UC Berkeley - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UH Manoa - ACCEPTED Penn State U - ACCEPTED Purdue U - ACCEPTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Davis - ACCEPTED Cal Poly SLO - ACCEPTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Southern California - REJECTED UC Berkeley - REJECTED

ENTRY #08 – Scraggy (attending UCLA)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Scraggy	GPA (UW and W): 4.00/4.65	Class Rank: 18/750ish (not reported to colleges)	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 2300/2400	SAT II (optional): Math II: 800, Chem: 780, Bio-M: 760	Top ECs: SciOly, FBLA, Orchestra	Top Honors: National Merit Finalist, National AP Scholar, IB Diploma
Intended Major: Biochemistry	Ethnicity/Gender: Chinese-Cambodian/Male	Other Hooks: None lmao	State: CA

Initial dream school: UCLA/UC Berkeley	Other important notes/info: applied Stanford REA, had a research abstract published
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 7	ECs: 7	Recs: 9	Hooks: 3
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara - LIKELY 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC San Diego - LIKELY UCLA, UC Berkeley - UNSURE 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford, Harvey Mudd - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara - ACCEPTED 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC San Diego, UCLA, UC Berkeley - ACCEPTED 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford - REJECTED Harvey Mudd - ACCEPTED
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ENTRY #09 – Justin (attending UCLA)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Justin L.	GPA (UW and W): 4.0/4.9	Class Rank: 1/655	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 34	SAT II (optional): Math II: 770, Chem: 730 US History: 780	Top ECs: -Eagle Scout -Volleyball -Orchestra/Band -President of Human Rights Organization	Top Honors: -NM Commended Scholar -AP Scholar with Distinction -Volleyball Scholar
Intended Major: Mechanical Engineering	Ethnicity/Gender: Vietnamese Male	Other Hooks: Suffered from clinical depression/bullying (mainstream)?	State: California (SoCal)

Initial dream school: UCLA/Stanford	Other important notes/info: Was UCLA throughout childhood, but when I visited Stanford it felt at home
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6.5 - 7	ECs: 7	Recs: 8	Hooks: 5
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Irvine - LIKELY UC Davis - LIKELY Cal Poly SLO - LIKELY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCLA - UNSURE UC Berkeley - UNSURE UC San Diego - LIKELY Georgia Tech - UNSURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford, MIT, Caltech, Princeton, Yale, Harvard, Harvey Mudd - UNLIKELY Cornell, Columbia, Johns Hopkins - UNSURE

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Irvine - ACCEPTED UC Davis - ACCEPTED Cal Poly SLO - ACCEPTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCLA - ACCEPTED UC Berkeley - ACCEPTED UC San Diego - ACCEPTED Georgia Tech - ACCEPTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford, MIT, Caltech, Princeton, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, Harvard, Harvey Mudd - REJECTED Johns Hopkins - WAITLISTED

ENTRY #10 – Teresa (attending Clemson University)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Teresa C	GPA (UW and W): 3.1/4.1	Class Rank: 108/413	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 2050/1440/31	SAT II (optional): N/A	Top ECs: Varsity swimming, violin	Top Honors: AP Scholar
Intended Major: Computer Science	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian/female	Other Hooks: Upward trend	State: North Carolina

Initial dream school: NC State University	Other important notes/info: Extremely bad grades freshman year due to undiagnosed depression
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 3	ECs: 4	Recs: 7	Hooks: N/A
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNC Wilmington - LIKELY Appalachian State - LIKELY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC State University - LIKELY Clemson University - LIKELY Virginia Tech - LIKELY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgia Tech - UNLIKELY University of Virginia - UNLIKELY UNC Chapel Hill - UNSURE

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNC Wilmington - ACCEPTED Appalachian State University - ACCEPTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC State University - WAITLISTED REJECTED Clemson University - ACCEPTED Virginia Tech - WAITLISTED REJECTED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgia Tech - REJECTED University of Virginia - REJECTED UNC Chapel Hill - REJECTED

ENTRY #11 – Nephany (attending Amherst College)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Nephany	GPA (UW and W): 3.85/4.24 out of 4.5, 8 APs total (low rigor)	Class Rank: Not listed, but around top 25-30%, out of 200	Type of High School: Private School (Top 3 in CA) Very competitive class.
SAT/ACT: 1560	SAT II (optional): Math II: 800, Chemistry: 790, Biology: 760, US History: 760	Top ECs: Research Assistant @ Stanford (4 years), Neurological Research (State/Science Fair, Research Paper, Symposiums)	Top Honors: Paper Publication sent to PubMed, Regeneron STS Semifinalist/Scholar, Siemens Semifinalist, Honorable Mention-CA State Science Fair.
Intended Major: Neuroscience/Biology	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian/Male	Other Hooks: :^)	State: California

Initial dream school: Stanford (not anymore hehe)

Other important notes/info: Low rigor, 23+ APs offered, 2 years of language, no in school club participation besides director of a outside of school organization. My app fit better for schools like Caltech/MIT but premed there sucks so I didn't apply.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 4	ECs: 7	Recs: 6	Hooks: 0
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis - LIKELY 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYU, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, Case Western- LIKELY 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanford REA, Harvard, Yale, Duke, UPenn, Columbia, Cornell, Northwestern, WUSTL, USC, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Johns Hopkins, Amherst, Williams, Pomona- UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis - ACCEPTED 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYU, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, UC Irvine- ACCEPTED Case Western - WAITLISTED 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amherst <3, USC, UCLA, UC Berkeley - ACCEPTED Columbia, Cornell, Northwestern - WAITLISTED, eventually REJECTED Stanford REA, Harvard, Yale, Duke, UPenn, WUSTL, Johns Hopkins, Williams, Pomona - REJECTED
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ENTRY #12 – Lucas (attending University of Rochester)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: lucas	GPA (UW and W): 3.5 UW, 3.9 W	Class Rank: 91/360	Type of High School: average public
SAT/ACT: 1510/34	SAT II (optional): 720 Math II	Top ECs: founded GSA, co-president of German Club, on National Art Honor Society committee	Top Honors: National Merit Finalist, AP scholar w/ distinction, National German Gold Award, Scholastic Art awards, state Governor's show awards
Intended Major: Mathematics/Business	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian / Trans Male	Other Hooks: Midwest, LGBT, art supplement	State: of despair Ohio

Initial dream school: UChicago	Other important notes/info: I had pretty shitty grades all of HS (like lots of B's) because of numerous undiagnosed + untreated mental illnesses but I was taking an intense course load too so
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 10	ECs: 3	Recs: idk, 5-6?	Hooks: 2
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio State University, Cleveland State University, Ringling College of Art and Design - LIKELY 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Western University of Rochester - LIKELY University of Michigan, Swarthmore - UNSURE 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, Dartmouth, Duke, Barnard, Vanderbilt, Northwestern - UNLIKELY UChicago, UC Berkeley, UCLA, CMU, Brown, Cornell - UNSURE
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Please post your actual results (ACCEPTED, WAITLISTED/DEFERRED, REJECTED).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio State University Cleveland State University Ringling College of Art and Design - ACCEPTED 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Western, University of Rochester - ACCEPTED UMichigan, Swarthmore - REJECTED 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, Dartmouth, Duke, Barnard, Vanderbilt, Northwestern, UChicago, UC Berkeley, UCLA, CMU, Brown, Cornell - REJECTED
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ENTRY #13 – Weedy_Biscuit (attending UPenn Wharton)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: weedy_biscuit	GPA (UW and W): 4.0 UW/4.74 W	Class Rank: 1/670	Type of High School: Large Public
SAT/ACT: 35 (36 English, 35 Math, 35 Science, 35 Reading)	SAT II (optional): 800 Math II, 780 Chem	Top ECs: Aerobatic Flying	Top Honors: NMSF, National AP Scholar Junior year.
Intended Major: Finance	Ethnicity/Gender: White Male	Other Hooks: 4th Gen Donating Legacy at Stanford	State: Colorado

Initial dream school: UPenn	Other important notes/info: Parents made my apply early to Stanford. If I could do it again, I would've applied ED to UPenn.
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 7	ECs: 9	Recs: 4	Hooks: 5
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CU Boulder - LIKELY, Colorado School of Mines - LIKELY, UND Aviation - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UVA - LIKELY, USC - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stanford - UNSURE, UPenn, UChicago, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Duke, Princeton, MIT - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CU Boulder - ACCEPTED, Colorado School of Mines - ACCEPTED, UND Aviation - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UVA - WITHDREW, USC - WITHDREW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stanford, UPenn, UChicago - ACCEPTEDHarvard, Yale, Columbia, Duke, Princeton, MIT - WITHDREW

ENTRY #14 – GammaHuman (attending Texas A&M University)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: /u/GammaHuman	GPA (UW and W): 3.5 / 3.82W	Class Rank: 38 / 388	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1420 / 30	SAT II (optional): N/A	Top ECs: N/A	Top Honors: N/A
Intended Major: Finance or Philosophy	Ethnicity/Gender: White / Male	Other Hooks: N/A	State: Florida

Initial dream school: UVa	Other important notes/info: shay is better than scratch ;)
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 7	ECs: 2	Recs: 7	Hooks: 0
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stetson - UNSURETexas A&M - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Florida - UNSUREUT Austin - UNSUREAmerican - UNSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UNC - Chapel Hill - UNLIKELYUVa - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stetson - ACCEPTEDTexas A&M - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Florida (Transfer /w AA) - ACCEPTEDUT Austin - REJECTEDAmerican (Spring) - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UNC - Chapel Hill - REJECTEDUVa - REJECTED

ENTRY #15 – Shay (attending Harvard)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Shay (Cleeshay)	GPA (UW and W): 4.0 and 4.75	Class Rank: 1/80	Type of High School: Public (very poor)
SAT/ACT: 33/1530 Schools usually look at scores relative to the student body at your school. The average ACT score at my school is 18. SAT/ACT is only a benchmark anyway, so a 33+/1500+ usually is fine for any top school.	SAT II (optional): Math II - 740 Literature - 740 (not v good at standardized testing)	Top ECs: - one of 7 national officers for an organization w/ 50k members - 2x officer of statewide org. - state board ed. rep - major indep. work in nonprofit - intern @ government office - independently raised \$10,000 for educational advocacy/causes - class vp/pres 3x (lots of work)	Top Honors: 1st Place / multi-level national competition w/ 6k participants 1st/2nd Place / state competition (same as above, but the state version) nat'l Qualifier (4x) Silver & Gold Medals/Cum Laude/Summa Cum Laude on National Latin Exam
Intended Major: anything related to nonprofit/social sciences/legal work/business	Ethnicity/Gender: Chinese/Female	Other Hooks: Under-performing public school	State: Connecticut

Initial dream school: never had one; whichever gave me the most money	Other important notes/info: i'm a dog / also, major health issues senior year
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

(AS OF THE APPLICATION SEASON/BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT)

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 7 (avg.) – personal statement: 8; supplements: 6	ECs: 9	Recs: 8	Hooks: 2
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UConn - LIKELY 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northeastern - LIKELY Boston College - UNSURE <p><i>I only applied to A LOT of reaches RD because I got into matches early (plus I had unlimited fee waivers).</i></p>	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wesleyan, Dartmouth - UNSURE Cornell, Columbia, Princeton, Brown, Harvard, UPenn, Yale Stanford - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UConn - ACCEPTED 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northeastern - ACCEPTED EARLY Boston College - ACCEPTED EARLY w/ Presidential Scholar (full merit scholarship) 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wesleyan, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Columbia, Princeton, Harvard, UPenn, Stanford - ACCEPTED Brown - WAITLISTED Princeton - REJECTED
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ENTRY #16 – Rjected (attending UMass Amherst)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Dan / Rjected	GPA (UW and W): 3.7/4.0, 4.7/5.3	Class Rank: Not Ranked	Type of High School: Rural public school
SAT/ACT: 1510 SAT (800 M / 710 R)	SAT II (optional): 800 Math II, 800 Chemistry	Top ECs: Eagle Scout. Multiple Software Development Internships and projects	Top Honors: AP Scholar, School STEM awards
Intended Major: Computer Science	Ethnicity/Gender: White / Male	Other Hooks: Twin, Still don't know if ADHD was a hook or a disadvantage	State: Massachusetts

Initial dream school: UC Berkeley	Other important notes/info: Diagnosed with ADHD, Anxiety, and Major Depressive Disorder summer of sophomore year, only treated ADHD because parents don't believe in the other two.
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6	ECs: 9	Recs: 7	Hooks: 0
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">UMass Amherst - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northeastern, Georgia Tech - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UC Berkeley, Cornell, Caltech - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">UMass Amherst - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northeastern - WAITLISTED/ACCEPTED Georgia Tech - REJECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UC Berkeley, Cornell, Caltech - REJECTED

ENTRY #17 – Devonshire (re-applying)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: devnoshire	GPA (UW and W): 3.9 something and magic number 4.20	Class Rank: 2/200 something	Type of High School:
SAT/ACT: 1510/35	SAT II (optional): no collegeboard is evil	Top ECs: linguistics	Top Honors: olympiad
Intended Major: have a guess	Ethnicity/Gender: Human-race/M	Other Hooks: i go fishing sometimes, got like 5 hooks	State: california

Initial dream school: not harvard	Other important notes/info: shay wanted me to mention that i was a junior
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 4	ECs: 5	Recs: 5	Hooks: 2
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">none	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Colby, Williams - UNSURE	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cornell, Columbia, UPenn, Dartmouth, Yale, Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Brown, Amherst, Williams, Colby, Duke, Northwestern - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">none	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Colby, Williams - REJECTED	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Every single college - REJECTED
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ENTRY #18 – Bayo202 (attending UT Austin)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Bayo202	GPA (UW and W): 3.92 UW 4.45 W (self-reported, school did 100-point scale- 102.746)	Class Rank: 6/471	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1490/32	SAT II (optional): Spanish: 730, M2: 740 (Planned to take French but switched on test day)	Top ECs: Marching Band and Colorguard for 4 years, Senior Class President, UIL Number Sense, Calculator, Math	Top Honors: Summa Cum Laude, National Merit Commended, AP Scholar w/ Distinction, UIL Regional Qualifier
Intended Major: CS, Spanish, & French	Ethnicity/Gender: African-American/Male	Other Hooks: First-Generation immigrant	State: Texas

Initial dream school: UT	Other important notes/info: Counselor messed up Common App close to application deadline
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

(AS OF THE APPLICATION SEASON/BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT)

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6	ECs: 6	Recs: 6	Hooks: 2
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">UT Austin - LIKELY	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">SMU, Baylor - LIKELYNYU, Rice - UNSURE	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yale, Columbia - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">UT Austin - ACCEPTED	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Baylor - WAITLISTEDNYU, SMU, Rice - WITHDREW	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yale, Columbia - WITHDREW
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ENTRY #19 – Ethinia (attending Boston College)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Ethinia	GPA (UW and W): 3.5	Class Rank: 3	Type of High School: Private
SAT/ACT: 1410	SAT II (optional): N/A	Top ECs: Volunteering	Top Honors:
Intended Major: Economics	Ethnicity/Gender: White ME/Male	Other Hooks:	State:

Initial dream school: NYU	Other important notes/info: International,
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6.5	ECs: 7	Recs: 10	Hooks: ?
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NYU - UNSURENEU - LIKELYBU - LIKELYGWU - UNSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">JHU, Columbia, BC, Williams, NWU - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NYU - REJECTEDNEU, BU - ACCEPTEDGWU - WL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">JHU, Columbia, Williams, NWU - REJECTEDBC - ACCEPTED

ENTRY #20 – Bluebell (attending Cambridge University)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Bluebell	GPA (UW and W): IB 44	Class Rank: ~ 95th percentile?	Type of High School: Private
SAT/ACT: 2290	SAT II (optional): 790, 750, 720	Top ECs: school paper, local charity, unique interdisciplinary art/writing	Top Honors: placed in intl poetry competition honors student?
Intended Major: English	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian / Female	Other Hooks: diversity goldmine for UK schools: LGBT, disabled, BME, etc	State: International

Initial dream school: Brown (ED) /Stanford	Other important notes/info: IB diploma diagnosed learning disorder, undiagnosed mental health issues technically class of 2020 bc UK undergrad is 3 years but y'know
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 8	ECs: 4	Recs: 9	Hooks: ??
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UBC, UC D/SB/I - LIKELY 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCLA, Reed, CMU, UCL, Durham - UNSURE Wesleyan, St. Andrews, Warwick - LIKELY 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Berkeley, Amherst, UChicago, Brown - UNSURE Cambridge, Stanford - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UBC, UC D/SB/I - ACCEPTED 	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCLA, Reed, CMU, UCL, Durham, Wesleyan, St. Andrews, Warwick - ACCEPTED 	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Berkeley, Amherst, Stanford, Brown - REJECTED UC Hicago - WL Cambridge - ACCEPTED
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ENTRY #21 – Bigfoot (attending Stony Brook)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Bigfoot	GPA (UW and W): 90/98	Class Rank: 53/380	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1370/30	SAT II (optional):	Top ECs: Class Treasurer, Robotics Team Leader, Thirst Project Advertising Board, Set Crew	Top Honors: National Honor Society
Intended Major: Computer Science and Economics	Ethnicity/Gender: White/M	Other Hooks: 0	State: New York

Initial dream school: Lehigh	Other important notes/info: Grades dropped in 11th grade because of illness, informed colleges of the reason
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 8	ECs: 8	Recs: 6	Hooks: 0
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stony Brook - LIKELYBinghamton - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GWU - LIKELYRPI - LIKELYLehigh - UNSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">U Chicago - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stony Brook - ACCEPTEDBinghamton - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GWU - ACCEPTEDRPI - WL then ACCEPTEDLehigh - WL then REJECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UChicago - WL then REJECTED

ENTRY #22 – Rembranti (attending Duke University)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Rembranti	GPA (UW and W): 4.0/4.5	Class Rank: 2/230	Type of High School: Medium Public
SAT/ACT: 1560/35	SAT II (optional): 760 Math 2 780 Chemistry	Top ECs: Marching Band Drum Major, Involved in leadership in state organization, multiple state wins in competitions through organization	Top Honors: AP Scholar, National Merit Semifinalist, Thickest student (LOL)
Intended Major: Applied as chemistry, probably math and or public policy now	Ethnicity/Gender: White/Male	Other Hooks: lol I'm a white male what's a hook? Underperforming public school is guess?	State: Georgia

Initial dream school: Harvard	Other important notes/info: Thiccc!!! (I got lucky)
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 5	ECs: 4	Recs: 7	Hooks: 3
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">University of Georgia - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Georgia Institute of Technology - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">USC, Vanderbilt, CMU, Cornell - UNSUREPrinceton, Harvard, Columbia, Duke, Stanford, Yale, MIT - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">University of Georgia - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Georgia Institute of Technology - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">USC, Duke - ACCEPTEDVanderbilt, Cornell, CMU - WLPrinceton, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Yale, MIT - REJECTED

ENTRY #23 – TheMaddMan (attending Santa Clara University)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: themadman	GPA (UW and W): 3.65 UW / 3.86 W 3.7 UW / 4.0 W UC GPA	Class Rank: Top quintile	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 1490/34	SAT II (optional): 720 Math II	Top ECs: A capella Pres, Robotics, Chamber Chorale	Top Honors: NHRP Scholar
Intended Major: Computer Science	Ethnicity/Gender: Hispanic/Male	Other Hooks: none	State: California

Initial dream school: UC Irvine/UCSB	Other important notes/info: Huge upward trend, crappy freshman year
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 7	ECs: 5	Recs: 6	Hooks: 3
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">SJSU, CSUMB, U of Oregon, U of Nebraska Lincoln, Cal Poly Pomona, - LIKELY	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Clara University - LIKELYUC Davis, UCSB, UC Irvine - UNSUREUCSD, Cal Poly SLO - UNLIKELY	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">UCLA, Purdue (CS after priority deadline) - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">SJSU, CSUMB, U of Oregon, U of Nebraska Lincoln, Cal Poly Pomona - ACCEPTED	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Clara University, UCSB (L&S alt major) - ACCEPTEDUC Irvine - WL then RUC Davis, UCSD, Cal Poly SLO - REJECTED	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">Purdue - WL then RUCLA - REJECTED
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ENTRY #24 – Anonymous (re-applying)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: --	GPA (UW and W): 3.9/4.5	Class Rank: top 3%	Type of High School: Competitive IB Public
SAT/ACT: ~1500 SAT	SAT II (optional): ~780 Math2, ~720 US History	Top ECs: President of Debate Club, lots of volunteering, highest band leadership	Top Honors: AP Scholar w/ Dist., NHS, nothing spectacular
Intended Major: Business	Ethnicity/Gender: Asian/Male	Other Hooks: Nothing noteworthy	State: Southeast

Initial dream school: Georgetown McDonough	Other important notes/info: I got fuckin shafted boissss. Please don't overestimate yourself. Work on your essays and know that sometimes luck doesn't fall in your favor.
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 5.5	ECs: 5	Recs: 6	Hooks: 3
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Florida State U, U of Alabama - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Top State Public, Emory, Boston College - UNSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Georgetown, Yale, Cornell, Williams, UVA - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">FSU, Bama - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Top State Public - ACCEPTEDBoston College - WAITLISTEDEmory - REJECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Georgetown, Yale, Cornell, Williams, UVA - REJECTED or WAITLISTED -> REJECTED

ENTRY #25 – Anonymous (attending GATech)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: --	GPA (UW and W): 3.98/4.5	Class Rank: Top 8%	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 30 ACT	SAT II (optional):	Top ECs: Varsity Track, Varsity CC, and JV Soccer	Top Honors:
Intended Major: Computer Engineering	Ethnicity/Gender: African American Female	Other Hooks:	State: Florida

Initial dream school: UIUC	Other important notes/info:
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 3	ECs: 2	Recs: 8	Hooks: 9
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CO School - LIKELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UIUC, UF - LIKELYGATech, UMich - UNSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Boston University - UNSURENorthwestern - UNLIKELY

Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties	Matches	Reaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CO School - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UIUC, UF, GATech, UMich - ACCEPTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Boston University - ACCEPTEDNorthwestern - REJECTED

ENTRY #26 – Wei (attending UCLA)

APPLICATION STATISTICS

Name: Wei	GPA (UW and W): 3.92 UW 4.67 W	Class Rank: 2/800	Type of High School: Public
SAT/ACT: 2230/34	SAT II (optional): 800 M2 660 BioE	Top ECs: Community Service (Library), FBLA	Top Honors: AP Scholar
Intended Major: Computer Science	Ethnicity/Gender: Vietnamese-Chinese/M	Other Hooks: First-generation	State: CA

Initial dream school: Stanford	Other important notes/info: N/A
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SELF-ASSESSMENT

- On a scale of 1-10, please rate your following...

Essays: 6	ECs: 4	Recs: 6	Hooks: 3
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COLLEGE LISTS & RESULTS

When you first applied, which were your initial safeties/matches/reaches? Also, in green/orange/red please mark which schools you thought you were **LIKELY**, **UNSURE**, and **UNLIKELY** to get into BEFORE DECISIONS CAME OUT.

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community College - LIKELY	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">UC Irvine, UC San Diego - UNSURE	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">UCLA, UC Berkeley, Stanford, Princeton, Caltech, Harvey Mudd College, Cornell, GATech - UNLIKELY
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Please post your actual results (**ACCEPTED**, **WAITLISTED/DEFERRED**, **REJECTED**).

Safeties <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community College - Accepted	Matches <ul style="list-style-type: none">UC Irvine, UC San Diego ACCEPTED	Reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">UCLA, Harvey Mudd College - ACCEPTEDGATech - WAITLISTEDUC Berkeley, Stanford, Princeton, Caltech, Cornell - REJECTED
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COMPILATION OF REFLECTIONS & ADVICE

PROMPT: General thoughts and reflections?

Number	Responses
1	I needed help.
2	I didn't educate myself on how the college application process worked, and I paid the price for it. Please research schools that are the best fit for you, study for standardized tests, write your essays with plenty of time to spare, apply for scholarships, apply EA to matches, and all that good stuff. Good luck!
3	I applied to way too many reaches, got way too attached to one school (leaving me devastated after I didn't get in), even though I knew I wasn't a very likely candidate for admission.
4	Don't submit all of your RD apps before ED/EA results come out. Waste of time and money.
5	I learned a lot about myself (and even more about how who I am is not who I present myself as). Take time to develop those essays and enjoy them.
6	I originally envisioned going to a big sexy public school. I am now going to a small, even sexier private school ;). I learned that sometimes what you expect isn't what you're going to get. No regrets and go broncos!

PROMPT: Any advice?

Number	Responses
1	Get help.
2	Apply to more match schools that you'd be more than happy with going to. Actually, make sure all of the schools you apply to all schools you'd be more than happy with going to.
3	If you want to apply early anywhere, the safest bet is to apply to match schools. Then, once you've been accepted by a few schools (and you have some options), you can apply to more reach schools during RD.
4	Check out some schools like Boston College, Duke, USC, Notre Dame, etc., which have great merit opportunities.
5	Get recommendations early and don't procrastinate!!!!
6	Over the course of the year I saw a lot of people overestimating themselves but my personal problem was underestimating myself– so don't underestimate yourself either! Apply for that reach! Go for it!
7	Strongly recommend not EDing anywhere if you're not absolutely 100% sure. I was like 80% sure and I'm so so so glad I didn't get into my ED school. (but EA and REA is good stuff so do that)
8	Look up schools with free applications
9	<p>Again, when people look at collections of data like this, they tend to look at the weakest applicant in order to compare themselves to them in order to gauge their ability to get into their dream school. This is not a good idea, the weak applicants are the outliers of admitted students.</p> <p>Agreed. Look at the 50th percentile above. 25th percentile and below (especially) usually have special circumstances that make them exceptional (crazy hooks or crazy ECs to compensate).</p>
10	Submit your apps and then forget about them. Seriously.
11	Don't overestimate your writing abilities. Most essays suck really badly.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to make this possible!