

## 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Marking Period Project: College Presentations

### SAT Prep – Mr. Gershon

The purpose of this assignment is to get students thinking about the careers that interest them and the school(s) that offer programs in those fields. Of course you don't need to commit yourself to any major or field of study at this point in your education. You'll have plenty of time to narrow your interests over the next several years. However for most of you, there's a high probability that you've given some thought as to what interests you as far as a careers are concerned.

Your assignment is in 2 parts. Part I, which is due the first time we meet during the week of March 19, 2012, requires that you have researched 5 schools in NY state that interest you. Below we detail the project's requirements.

#### Requirements:

Part I ( 100 points): Due Week of March 19, 2012

Type a 500-800 word essay (typed, double spaced) introducing the career you are interested in pursuing and the 5 schools in NY state you've explored that offer programs in those careers. Use the questions below as a guide when writing your essay. Handwritten essays will not be accepted, nor will late essays be graded.

- 1) What career are you interested in pursuing? Why did you choose that career over others, and what do you know about people who work in that profession? What is a typical day in the life of someone working in that profession? How much schooling does one need to complete to begin working in that profession and at what level do salaries begin in that field? If you haven't chosen a field of study, explain how you plan to go about searching for the career that most interests you.
- 2) What type of extra-curricular activities are you interested in, or what interests outside of school do you wish to pursue as well? Do the schools (or towns the schools are in) offer any programs in those extra-curricular pursuits?
- 3) What are the requirements to be accepted by each of the 5 schools you've researched? What is the minimum or average GPA for incoming freshmen? What are the median or average SAT scores for incoming freshmen? What is the annual tuition? What is the teacher/student ratio? What financial aid is available? What stands out about that school over some of the others you were considering? What is the student body composed of (i.e. what are the demographics? (You get the idea. These are questions I want you asking yourself when you're looking for schools.)

Part II: (100 points) Due Week of April 16, 2012. Narrow down your choice to one college. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation on that one college and include the following in your presentation:

- Name of schools
- Location
- Requirements to get in (SAT/ACT average/median; are SAT II's required?)
- Private or Public institution
- Size of school
- Size of classes
- Tuition
- Financial aid
- Demographics (% of each race/ethnic group)
- Structures and buildings (Gym? Pool? Computer labs?)
- Extra-curricula? (sports, what division? Newspaper? Etc.)
- Any famous professors?
- Any well-known or distinguished alumni?
- Quirky facts about the school? (i.e. voted most happiest students)
- Any traditions?
- Photos of the school, like the mascot, buildings, etc.

Here is the grading sheet including the criteria that your peers will be using to grade your presentation.

## Student Grading Sheet

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation (needs improvement) 1 2 3 4 5 (superstar)

Is the speaker:

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Clear and understandable?             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • At ease with the audience?            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Speaking to the audience?             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Prepared?                             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Knowledgeable about the schools?      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • *Reading from PPT or referring to it? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

In general, evaluate each of the following:

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Overall quality of presenter's style?                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Overall quality of presentation info?                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Did the speaker make you interested in exploring the college for yourself? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Add up your score: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Reading from a powerpoint presentation is generally considered poor form. It is preferable for a speaker to refer to the slide but elaborate on the details in their own words.