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**USA INTERNATIONAL**  
EDUCATION CONSULTING

# Personalized College Consulting Service



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# Road Map Report for Orhan (Planning)



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THIS REPORT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE HOLISTIC APPROACH THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAKING THE BEST DECISIONS REGARDING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS. WE ALSO AIM TO LOWER YOUR AND YOUR PARENTS STRESS DURING THIS TENSE PREPARATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

Dear **Orhan,**

This report is a personalized college consulting service for you. It does not include any generic recommendations.

This report is a personalized consulting service for you. We prepare such reports to our students as a first step of our services. It does not include any generic recommendations. In other words, it is prepared based on your needs regarding your applications to colleges in different states in the US. I prepared this report with respect to your educational background as well as your future educational plans and of course your potential SAT scores. The main aim of the report is very simple. I would like to contribute to the brainstorming that you must undertake during this process, rather than only providing you with specific directions regarding application steps and procedures. This report will also contribute to the holistic approach that is essential to making the best decisions regarding college applications. We also aim to lower your and your parents stress during this tense preparation and application procedures.

As an education consulting company, we provide and believe in personalized consulting through sessions that lead to better brainstorming and, accordingly, better decisions made by the student him/herself. In this report you will find several sections covering the topics of (1) transcript evaluations, (2) SAT scores and their evaluation, (3) extracurricular activity, its evaluation, (4) the schools that best match your profile (College List broken into categories of safe schools, best match, and "let's try"), (5) scholarship opportunities, (6) technical application procedures and The Common Application platform, (7) time management, and (8) special talents and circumstances (language and art skills, etc.).



# 01

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## Everybody wants the best choice!

This journey includes complex procedures and even tiny details can create serious obstacles or generate significant advantages (mostly financial) for you and for your parents.

We had couple meetings with you and with your father and this is how we will be working together. This journey includes complex procedures and even tiny details can create serious obstacles or generate significant advantages (mostly financial) for you and for your parents. In other words, there are crucial steps and without an experienced mind you may make some mistakes, and this can cost you a lot. That is the reason why I am writing (and created) this Road Map Report. There are two major issues you are facing now. The first issue that I have realized is about “decision making”.

Everybody wants the best choice however confusing mass information and unprofessional recommendations from ordinary people (with college degrees) put students in a very uncomfortable position. This is also highly correlated to the stress that you may experience in the following months. With this report (and with our future conversations), we will try to make the best decisions (best match colleges) for you. Further, since you are still in the middle of 10th grade, we carefully need to specify the courses that you need to take in the following years. The second issue is about the confusion on essential technical procedures including writing an impressive personal essay, resume building, answering top schools’ specific questions, etc. On the other hand, beside lowering the stress, and boosting the effective decision-makings process, we will complete your personal essay and resume however we have a lot of time to start such documentation.

Like millions of college applicants, you would struggle to express yourself with only 650 words. Further, personal statements do not have specific “format” and I am very sure this also confuses many students. I have particular format to show the students’ passion and unique characteristics (as well as future plans and academic strengths) that will distinguish you from the other applicants. I do not mean that it is going to be perfect however we will have something convincing. Lastly, I believe that this report will improve your motivation toward SAT exam that you will be taking next year.

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I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT CERTAIN ABOUT THE ACADEMIC MAJOR THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHOOSE. NO WORRIES. ONE OUT OF THREE COLLEGE STUDENTS CHANGE THEIR MAJORS, AND THE SCHOOLS ARE READY FOR SUCH CHANGES.





*Cornell University*

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You already have one C in your transcript, and this can pause the admission officers while they evaluate your application package. Top schools will not accept you if you have more than one “C”. Please make sure you keep your grades up. Even “B”s are problematic for top colleges.

# 02

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## Transcript Evaluations

I would like to start with your transcript evaluations, which will be the primary criteria for the college admissions. Although each college has its unique algorithm to distinguish the applicants, especially top schools will look at the details of your high school transcripts first. In an ordinary case, they would look beyond your grade point averages (GPA). In other words, they would look at the quality of the classes that you have completed. Specifically, they would evaluate the advanced placement (AP), dual enrollment (early college), and honors classes. AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP US History, AP Literature, AP Lang, AP Calculus, AP Computer Science Principals and other early college courses would distinguish you a lot.

This road map report is also focusing on planning and preparation and as I have highlighted during our conversations over the phone, we want you to take at least two AP classes next year. The names are all up to you however until or during 12th grade, you need to have AP Calculus in your transcript since we are also thinking about top schools for you.

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is available for Algebra II for this summer however your guidance counselor should approve it. Talk to him for this summer course from FLVS. AP Language and Composition and AP Psychology sound good for next year. If you can add AP US History, it would be perfect. US History is a high schools graduation requirement in Florida (like in all states). Further, it is not that challenging, and I believe that you can handle AP version of this class. However, such decisions (taking AP classes) are up to your school counselor. They say the last word. On the other hand, we do not want you to ruin your GPA with low grades like a "C".

You already have one C in your transcript, and this can pause the admission officers while they evaluate your application package. Top schools will not accept you if you have more than one "C". Please make sure you keep your grades up. Even "B"s are problematic for top colleges.

On the other hand, your GPA is very good but not perfect. Those top schools have best applicants with perfect grades from all over the world.



# 03

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## SAT Scores

Let's continue with SAT. This is the second criteria for college admissions after GPA. You have taken PSAT previously however you were not sure about your score. I assume the number was close to 1200/1520. This is a good score that indicates you may hit up to 1500/1600 at real SAT. Although it is a little early to focus on this test, we want you to know that SAT is extremely important especially for the colleges in Florida. As you know many schools including top colleges made SAT submission optional. You can apply to many schools without submitting your SAT score. This sounds good however, schools have different reasons to do that. They would like to increase the number of applicants and yes, they also accept students without SAT score. However, they of course, prioritize students with good SAT scores.

There are few schools, and they are SAT Blind schools that allow a fair evaluation. Further, many schools in Florida still require SAT. Top schools like University of Florida, Florida State University are among them, and we will apply them. Since you have one "C" in your transcript (hopefully it will be the only one until your graduation) your strong SAT score will make our application stronger. On the other hand, you must know that almost all schools accept super scores for the SAT. That means highest sub scores from each test and their total will be considered your official SAT score. SAT is normally offered 7 times a year. 1500/1600 will give you a chance to be accepted by top schools including MIT, Duke, Harvard, Columbia, etc. However, always remember, not only the domestic students but also the best students from China, India, Japan, Canada, Korea, Germany, etc. are applying to those schools. Competition is at extreme level.

As I also mentioned above, we need to show that you are a good student, and your GPA is alone not representing who you are. Let me give you an example from Cornell University. International students make up about 22.0% of the student body at Cornell. Best students from China, India, South Korea, France, Germany, etc. are also applying especially with 800 SAT Math scores.

I completed the college list in this report with respect to your potential SAT score. You may know that you can find the schools' last year accepted students' SAT averages. Please note that these dates are subject to change. From my own experience, I am very sure that this number (1450) is the bottom line for the top colleges. If you can receive a higher score, we will be more comfortable. SAT also means scholarships.



*Princeton University*



# 04

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## Extracurricular Activities

The third criterion of admissions is the extracurricular activities that you have completed during your high school years. This criterion has more subjectivity since there are a variety of activities in which students participate that can be considered extracurricular activities. The schools basically would like to see one of the three major titles when they evaluate the students' extracurricular activities: (1) passion, (2) leadership, (3) social impact. Many applicants provide several participation certificates highlighting that they participated some professional development activities. Those are acceptable activities however the schools really would like to see the "productivity" Let me give you an example. Reading 500 books during high school years sounds very impressive. However, where is the productivity here?

If you have completed and published 300 book reviews in your own web page or different platforms, we can say that you are someone special and a productive person. Another example can be a YouTube channel. Imagine a student publishing videos on "origami" the art of paper folding. Her interest (passion) turns into productivity. Imagine that she has 100 videos and in total 500.000 people watched her videos. We may not be interested in "origami" and even

can find those videos boring; however, we cannot underestimate the existence of people who have passion on this interesting art. Research activities can be given as another example. Many students involve academic research activities with university professors during their high school education. Their name even can appear as a second or third name on an academic manuscript. Such involvements have huge impacts on college admissions especially at top colleges. We will talk about such college engagement for the upcoming summers.

For your planning, we have some actions that I want you to take. You do not have sports or music activities, and this is OK. I want you to create a website as I always ask all my students to create. This will be a personal website, and, in this page, you will show how productive you are. You will also introduce yourself by your resume, and some pictures. Blogs are the most important things for you, and I want you to write blogs. There will be the blog tab, and this is the best opportunity to show your productivity. You can write about politics, history, etc. We need many blogs and a good design. You can add many pictures of yourself or the places you have visited.

Your internships at your family company (We are going to polish these activities and I believe it is going to distinguish your application a lot). I am leaving two websites of my students here and you can check them out. Those students of mine were a little late to establish their web sites however they did great jobs.

<http://sebnemmercan.com>

<https://orhanyagizercinar.com/>

Check them out.

There are many people I know that can help you to establish your own website. However, the most important part is the content (e.g., blogs, etc.) in your website.

If you have chance, you can join some club activities at your school. Science or math Olympiads are magical words. It would be perfect if you could join those teams.

# 05

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## Time Management

I would like to stress the importance of time management. We still have time to prepare your documents and apply to below listed schools that I have picked for you. Our planning period is very important especially for the extracurricular activities. Let me explain some important facts about deadlines. I should note that all the schools that I have picked for you accept applications through “early action” and “early decision” options. The due date for such applications is usually November 1st (12th grade Fall semester). In short, many universities accept their students very early and the acceptance rates for those early applicants become very high. Students also have more of a chance to get higher number of scholarships through those types of admissions. Early action applications are non-binding applications. However, early decision applications are binding, and if you prefer this option and if the school accepts your application, you should go there.

You have to decide carefully. On the other hand, all the schools that I chose for you also have regular admission deadlines, mostly in January. I am very sure that we can complete your applications before November 1, 2023. Lastly, if you prefer early action and early decision admission types, you will receive the results (acceptance-denial) in December or in January. The schools will give you some time to decide whether you prefer them (May 1, 2024).



*Drexel University*



# 06

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## The Common Application Platform

Although different application platforms exist, I recommend that you use “The Common Application” when you are applying to the universities that I have picked for you. This platform makes things very simple. It has a very user-friendly functionality. You will submit almost all documentation (personal statement, reference letters, etc.) through this system. It is free to use; however, there will be an application fee for each of these universities. I will be helping you to use this platform, but we have time to think about it. More than 900 academic institutions accept applications through The Common Application platform (<https://www.commonapp.org>).

I know that you are not certain about the academic major that you would like to choose. No worries. One out of three college students change their majors, and the schools are ready for such changes. In other words, you do not lose time and money if you change your major especially within the first two years. We will talk about the options however if you have history or political science majors in your mind, you can write some blogs for your website. We may go through with your intended major while we prepare your personal essay. We have time anyway.



Stanford University

## Top Schools' Questions

Let me continue about the top school's questions. As you know that those competitive schools ask questions and require the applicants to answer them. We will try to prepare impressive answers for those brief questions. We will always highlight your diverse background and unique life story that made you who you are now. Someone strong with precise academic and career plans. While you complete the Commonapp procedures (adding schools, etc.) we will answer those questions together. For instance, New York University asks "Why NYU?" as a question and you have 450 words limit to impress them. Always remember that you also need an impressive personal essay. Here are Harvard's questions as examples:

Your intellectual life may extend beyond the academic requirements of your particular school. Please use the space below to list additional intellectual activities that you have not mentioned or detailed elsewhere in your application. These could include, but are not limited to, supervised or self-directed projects not done as schoolwork, training experiences, online courses not run by your school, or summer academic or research programs not described elsewhere. (150 words max.)

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (150 words max.)

Let's see the schools that I have picked for you. You can, of course, add more schools or change the ones that I have picked for you. Those are my recommendations. After the acceptance letters you will have more difficult times to choose the "best match" school. I know that you really want top schools with acceptable reasons however I highly recommend not to underestimate the other schools. Applying 15 schools are fine since we do not know that scholarships that you will receive. Scholarship amounts will lead you for the final decision. On the other hand, I know that you would like to include out of state schools, and I considered your thoughts while I choose the schools for you. There are many schools in NY, NJ, PA and MA areas. However, always remember that schools in Florida are also good schools and there are several advantages attending them as a resident of Florida. First, there is the Bright Future Scholarship. If you hit 1330/1600 with at least 3.5/4.0 GPA (plus 100 volunteer hours) your tuition cost will be covered %100. The school tuitions (for one year) are very reasonable anyway. University of Florida, for instance, would cost you around \$6500 as a resident even if you cannot receive any scholarship. This school costs more than \$28.000. Further, there are many other scholarship opportunities available.

If you think that staying in Florida could be boring, always know that every single school has exchange agreements with colleges abroad. You can spend at least one semester in any country you can imagine.

Our strategy is simple. We categorized the schools as (1) the dream schools (let us apply), (2) best match and (3) the safe schools. Your chance to





## Let's Try Schools

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Princeton University	Ranked 1. Reading and Writing 690-790, Math 710-800
Harvard University	Ranked 2. Reading and Writing 710-770, Math 750-800.
Stanford University	Ranked 5. Reading and Writing 700-770, Math 740-800.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (MIT)	Ranked 6. Reading and Writing 730-770, Math 780-800
Cornell University	Ranked 12. (Ivy League) SAT 25th percentile 1330--- SAT 75th percentile 1530
University of Florida	Ranked 28. Reading and Writing 650-720, Math 660-750. Ranked number 1 in Florida

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*Penn State University*

## Best Match Schools

Lehigh University	Ranked 49. Reading and Writing 610-693, Math 650-740
Florida State University	Ranked 55. Reading and Writing 620-680, Math 600-670. Ranked number 2 in Florid
Penn State University	Ranked 63. SAT 1265
Drexel University	Ranked 97. Reading and Writing 530-630, Math 560-670.
University of South Florida	Ranked 103. Reading and Writing 590-660, Math 580-670
Temple University	Ranked 104 among the best schools in the US. Writing 570-660, Math 560-650. 1221/1600. It is also located in Philadelphia

## Safe Schools

University of Central Florida.	Ranked 148 Reading and Writing 590-670, Math 580-670
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*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*



*Harvard University*



# 09

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## Conclusion

Those schools have serious educational history (average 150 years old). Millions of students (not only in US but also around the world) cannot even dream being a student at the above-mentioned schools.

In conclusion, you are a good student with clear goals with passion. I am very sure you will be very successful at any college that you will attend. I think the same for your future career. WE CAN ADD AND DELETE SOME SCHOOLS LATER. TALK TO YOU SOON.

Erkan Acar, PhD  
01.10.2022



# USA INTERNATIONAL

EDUCATION CONSULTING



*The Golden Gate Bridge*