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- You will be the first in your family to attend college
- You have participated in no school-related activities
- You chose as the topic of your college essay "Sports as a Metaphor for Life"

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- You are a varsity athlete and All-Region in that sport
- You decided to protect your GPA by not taking AP classes offered at your school
- You chose Greek as your intended major

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- You have taken an exceptionally strong academic program
- You chose psychology as your intended major
- You did not write the optional essay for your college application

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- You participated in a significant community service project
- You forgot to change the name of the college to which you were applying on your college essay
- You attended an enriching summer program between your junior and senior year

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- You clearly stated that this college is your first choice by making an early decision application and commitment
- You wrote the “Essay of the Year,” the one that everyone passed around in the office
- You plagiarized your college admission essay and got caught

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- You have taken an exceptionally strong academic program.
- You got a "D" in an academic course at the end of your junior year
- You wrote a letter to the college admission officer and explained the extenuating circumstances surrounding a grade of "D"

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- You direct the gospel choir at your church
- You are an Eagle Scout

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- You are a legacy at the college to which you are applying
- You do not know your teachers well enough to feel comfortable asking for a recommendation
- Your last name is Winfrey and the name on the college library is Winfrey