Class of 2021: COLLEGE QUESTIONNAIRE for COUNSELORS

Guidelines / Instructions:

This is intended to help your counselor to help you as he/she presents you to colleges through a Counselor Evaluation / Letter of Recommendation.

In it, we ask you to share your personal qualities, your stories and accomplishments, your hopes and dreams, your inspirations and motivations.

These are the things that will “round out” your college application. It can provide those things that cannot be found on your transcript or SAT scores.

Think of this hypothetical scenario:

It is next April. Your college decisions have come in. There is one or more colleges where you did not get admitted. Are you saying, “I wish they only knew this about me”? This, and your essay, are your chances to reflect on that and to let them know that aspect of you.

This is similar to your essay, but different in one important way. Let your counselor do the bragging about you. Your personal essay should NOT be that. Tell us your highlights. If coming from us it will have a much better “sound” to it.

Thoughtful and reflective responses will result in a more effective letter of recommendation. Generalities are not helpful; specifics and examples are. For example, "I'm a hard worker" does not tell us anything about you that thousands of other kids aren’t saying about themselves. On the other hand, "I'm a hard worker; for example, there was the time when..." makes your claim more credible and impressive.

Note that the final question is intended for your parents. We very much value and appreciate their input, insights, and contributions as well.

We will not be able to write a letter of recommendation -- required by most colleges -- without these questions completed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and efforts.

PLEASE TYPE YOUR NUMBERED RESPONSES IN A WORD DOCUMENT. SUBMIT A HARD COPY TO MRS. HAYDEN IN THE COUNSELING OFFICE:

• BY SEPTEMBER 15 IF APPLYING TO A COLLEGE WITH A DEADLINE DATE BEFORE DECEMBER 1

• BY NOVEMBER 1 IF APPLYING TO A COLLEGE WITH A DEADLINE DATE DECEMBER 1 OR LATER.

1. Do you have a major or general field you plan to study in college?
   Likewise, do you have a certain profession / career in mind?
   If so, why have you chosen this field? What intrigues you about it?
   What personal experiences have you had that helped form your opinion of this field? How do they relate?
Where does your knowledge of this field come from? (People you know, readings / research, the media, etc.)

How “set” are you on pursuing this field? (It is okay to be uncertain or somewhat undecided – but giving us a sense for this would be helpful).

2. What motivates, inspires, intrigues, and excites you in the realm of learning?
   What classes, what subject areas? Why?

3. Please list your extracurricular activities (i.e. clubs, sports, work, musical instrument, other arts, talents, hobbies, etc.) both at St. John’s and/or beyond.
   Note the years (e.g., 9, 10, etc.) that you were / are involved in it, and the levels. (For example, grade 9 / Novice crew; 10 JV Crew; 11/12 Varsity Crew. List any “position” or distinction – for example, 2nd boat, co-captain, etc.)
   For plays, list which ones, what roles.
   Jobs: where did you work, what role, how many hours per week, etc.
   List them in order of importance to you.
   Are there any particular sports, arts, activities, etc., that you will be pursuing at the college level?

4. Who is the person you admire most in this world (living or dead)? What do / did you admire about them and why would you want to emulate / imitate them?

5. What has been your most satisfying and rewarding Saint John’s experience?
   Why did this have meaning for you? Please describe.

6. What has been your most satisfying and rewarding experience outside of Saint John’s – family, work, relationships, interests? Why did this have meaning for you? Please describe.

7. What do you consider your best personality trait or strength?
   Is there anything about yourself that you find rather unique or interesting?
   Can you provide an anecdote / example / story that illustrates that?

8. What has been your biggest personal challenge / problem / obstacle / dilemma?
   First, academically?
How about outside of academics / school?
How have you gone about solving it (or dealing with it)?

9. What are the most important factors in choosing your college(s)?

10. Are you planning to apply for Financial Aid for college?

11. As of now, are you interested in playing a sport or pursuing a specific activity at the college level?

12. What colleges are you sure you are applying to?
   Which ones are you still considering but not sure yet?

13. Do you feel you have a couple of “safe” schools? (Which ones?)

14. Parent Input. [Dear Parent(s)], your thoughts, opinions, insights, and support are very much valued and appreciated as we prepare to present your son to colleges. Please provide any information about your son that you feel would be helpful for us in this process.

Thank you.