

TOP TEN LIST FOR PARENTS OF WHAT NOT TO DO ON THE COLLEGE VISIT



(Compiled from Admissions Offices 4/2008)

1. **Don't use the royal "we."**

Only your child will be applying to the college. "We have a 3.5 GPA and a 2100 SAT" does not bode well for your child's application.

2. **Don't work at the office during the tour/interview/information session.**

Turn off your cell phone, laptop, IPOD, Blackberry and anything else that might tempt you and give the appearance of being rude.

3. **Don't speak for your child.**

Let your child own this process, starting with checking him/herself into the Admissions Office for the tour. If you find yourself doing all the talking while your child stands mutely, staring at the floor, you are in trouble.

4. **Don't publicly embarrass your child.**

Don't ask potentially humiliating questions. Don't brag about your child to the tour guide, information session speaker, etc. Do brag about him/her to the college counselor.

5. **Don't monopolize the conversation.**

Instead, arm your child with a list of questions that are important to him/her.

6. **Don't ruin the interview.**

Don't go into the interview – it's not for you. If you are invited in, just listen.

7. **Don't whine, complain or be openly negative.**

It is not a good idea to complain about the college, cost, facilities or admissions people during the college visit. You will leave a lasting, negative impression of yourself and your child.

8. **Don't broker your student.**

Even if you have given a building, or the student is a legacy, this does not create a favorable impression in the Admissions Office.

9. **Don't allow your child to embarrass him/herself.**

Appropriate dress, behavior, and cell phone etiquette are important.

10. **Don't tell the Admissions office that you are doing the application process for your child. Don't do the application process for your child.**

They will not be happy to hear about the great essays you wrote!

