



COLLEGE BOUND

YOUR APPLICATION MENTORSM

WINTER 2007

VOLUME III, NUMBER 4

Winter Break To-Do List After all Applications are in:

1. *Open presents*
2. *Relax*
3. *See a Movie*
4. *Text your friends*
5. *Read a Book*
6. *Drink some eggnog*
7. *Go shopping*
8. *Get together with friends*
9. *Go dancing*
10. *Breathe a big sigh of relief! You did it!*



Hard at work on their Applications?

Where Would Harry Potter go to College?

With which character from the Harry Potter series do you most identify? Are you more like Ron? Lacking in confidence, but with incredible talent lying under the surface, ready to come through in a crunch? Are you more like Harry? Not interested in studying unless it is to uncover how to counter "you know who"? And then you will expend huge amounts of time and energy in learning what you need to know? Do you see Hermione in yourself? You love to learn for the sake of learning and need a time shifter to manage all of your classes and activities? Perhaps you are like to Weasley twins. Traditional school doesn't interest you, but you are a genius at seeing an opportunity to create a business based on your own passion.

The Harry Potter series is brilliant on so many levels, but as I was reading books four through seven this summer, I was struck by how J.K. Rowling mastered the art of developing real characters and given their age and stage of life, prospective college applicants. I kept thinking about how each of these characters had innate strengths that brought something to the fight against "you know who". They each lent a hand in developing and carrying out the plan and without any one of them, the plan would not have worked successfully.

As you think about yourself, think about what you bring to the table. How do you learn, how do you achieve your goals? What part do you play in a team? Are you the leader? Are you the implementer? Are you the creative person who gets the group thinking in a different direction? Do you like to read as much as possible before you make a decision and then apply what you've read to the situation? Do you act more from your gut?

As you start to develop a better picture for yourself of who you are, you can take that picture and match it with a college environment that fits your style. You will also have a better handle on how to present yourself to colleges when you write your application. Very likely, we all have a little bit of each of these characters within us and depending on the circumstances, one will be more pronounced. In times of stress, it is good to know which part is the strongest, because inevitably that is what you fall back on.

So which school would Harry Potter go to? Hermione? Ron? If I had to make a recommendation, I'd steer Harry towards a hands on learning environment, Hermione towards a highly intellectual, challenging environment and Ron towards a small liberal arts college to build his confidence. Where will you go? That's up to you!



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