

# G.A.P.S Presents: Tips & Tricks

For Seniors  
Preparing  
for  
College!

## Tip #1: Set Up a Dedicated Email for College Applications

Create a separate email account **SPECIFICALLY** for college admissions, FAFSA, and scholarship communications. This helps keep everything organized and ensures you don't miss important updates. While it's not mandatory, having a dedicated email makes the process smoother & more manageable.

## Tip #2:



### Get you FAFSA ID early

Before FAFSA opens for the 2025-2026 school year, make sure to create your FAFSA ID. Doing this in advance will save you an exceptional amount of time when completing the application.



## FAFSA

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

### What is FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is a form completed by current and prospective college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.



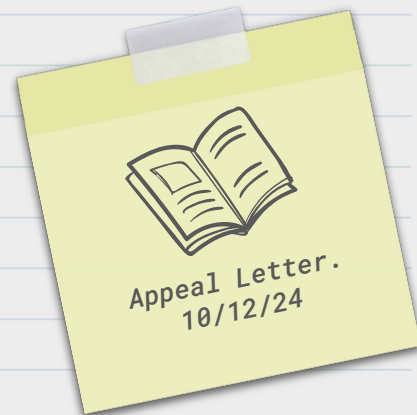
## Tip #3:

### **Write your personal statement**

Don't underestimate the importance of your personal statement! This is your chance to showcase who you are beyond your grades and test scores. Share your story and let colleges get to know you as a person.

## Tip #4: Prepare an Appeal Letter

It's wise to have an appeal letter **READY**, just in case. If you don't get into a school or miss out on a scholarship, an appeal letter can formally request reconsideration of that decision. It's a valuable tool to have on hand.





## Tip #5: Build Relationships with Your Teachers

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Start building strong connections with your teachers now. You'll need them for **recommendation letters**, which are **crucial** for college applications and scholarships. Remember, these letters should come from teachers, mentors, coaches, and principals— **not family or friends.**





**TRICKS**

## Trick #1: Utilize Fee waivers

If you're a student who qualifies for **free or reduced lunch**, you can take advantage of fee waivers when applying to colleges. This means you **won't have to pay application fees** for schools using the Common App or Black Common App. Just ask your counselor to help you with the waiver.





## Trick #2:

### Apply Directly on College Websites

If your desired college isn't listed on the Common App or Black Common App, don't worry! Visit the university's official website and apply directly there.



## Trick #3 : Start EARLY!

Don't procrastinate!  
Begin your college  
application process as  
early as possible.  
Waiting until the last  
minute can lead to  
unnecessary stress.





### Trick #4: Get Involved

Colleges love to see involvement outside the classroom. Join clubs, sports, or community service activities. This shows them you can balance multiple responsibilities while being a dedicated student.



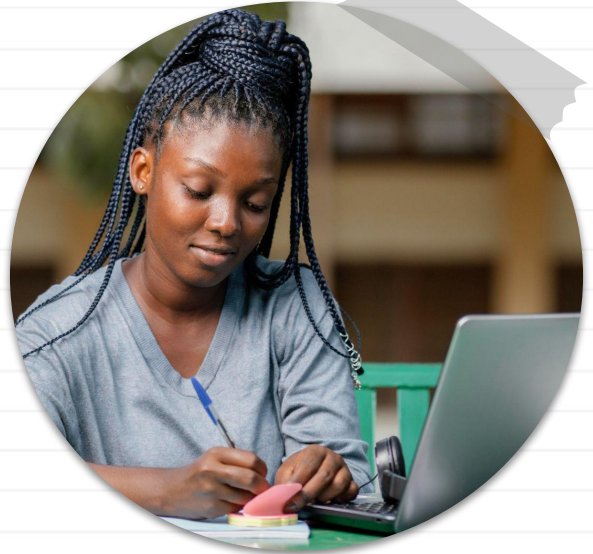
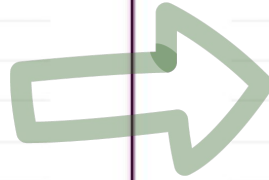
### Trick #5: Craft a Heartfelt Personal Statement

Colleges appreciate authentic personal statements. Make yours unique by sharing a meaningful experience that reflects who you are. Your genuine voice will stand out!

## Trick #6: Explore Financial Opportunities

### Follow the money

Look into colleges that offer generous scholarships and financial aid packages. Research different funding options to make your education more affordable.



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## Trick #7: Take advantage of In-State tuition deals

Did you know? Kentucky schools offer in-state tuition rates to Indiana residents. This could be a fantastic opportunity to save on tuition costs while still receiving a quality education.



**Thank You!**  
**Questions??**



**Good  
Luck!**