

# AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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Student Name

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Advisor's Name

This Autobiographical Sketch will help me assist you in your quest to find a college or university that matches what you are looking for. It will also be used next year to write your school recommendation which accompanies the "Secondary School Report" sent to colleges to which you are applying. The school's recommendation will provide a summary of your academic and extracurricular involvements, as well as a sense of your promise for future personal and intellectual growth.

Please take the time to think about who you are and where you are headed. Help us help you. The information you share will be held in the utmost confidence, and will be used only by me. Be frank and complete; do not be falsely modest. Use the back of these sheets or additional sheets if you wish. Unless the question specifically refers to school activities, do not restrict your answers to school life. Draw on experiences and activities from any part of your life. I suggest that you photocopy this so that you'll have a copy. It may be helpful later when you are filling out college applications.

Please return this to me as soon as you have completed it. Make sure you bring it to our last meeting before summer vacation.

Thank you

## 1. FAMILY BACKGROUND

| <u>Members</u><br>( <i>Mom/Dad/Sis/Bro</i> ) | <u>School(s) Attended</u><br>( <i>Degree &amp; Yr. Earned</i> ) | <u>Profession</u> | <u>Sibling Ages</u> |
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Are your parents separated or divorced? \_\_\_\_\_

List any organizations to which your family belongs, e.g. church groups, professional groups, etc. (Many of these have financial aid available.)

Please give one example of how your family has contributed to who you are today.

## 2. ACADEMIC

List the high school(s) you have attended. Please tell why you switched schools (if you did).

9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever repeated or skipped a grade? If yes, please explain why.

What academic areas or subjects (and any specific classes) have you enjoyed the most? What academic areas are you most interested in? Why?

What subjects (and any specific classes) have given you the most difficulty? Why? How have you compensated to overcome this difficulty?

Do you have interests that you are passionate enough about that you take the time to study and learn about them even though you are not required to spend time studying them? If so, explain.

List the books you have read on your own in the past year.

Describe an instance in which an article, book, play, or film has caused you to change your way of thinking.

What has been your most stimulating intellectual experience in recent years?

Have you ever received any academic honors? If so, what honors and when did you receive them?



**5. ARTS**

List all involvements in the Arts: plays, musicals, choir, etc. and how you were involved (on stage, behind the scenes....). If you've been very involved in the studio arts, please put that also.

Play/Musical, etc.

Name of production, character you played, or how you were involved (and year). What did you do?

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**6. COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Please list any Community Service you've done, its significance, and when you did it (or will do it).

**7. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU**

Please list any other activities of importance to you, such as religious and/or political involvement, hobbies or special talents and interests, and what you have done with them. Have you been involved with any special summer programs?

8. Of the things you mentioned in questions 3-7, what is most important to you, and why.

9. How do you spend your "free" time. List any hobbies or interests no matter how unimportant they may seem.

10. Have you ever received any personal or social honors? (If yes, what)

11. **WORK EXPERIENCE.** What kind of work do you do (or have you done) during high school, and how do you feel about it? Please include the time spent on the job and whether it was over the summer or during the academic year. How meaningful (besides money) were the jobs?

Job \_\_\_\_\_

When/Hours/What I Got Out of It, etc.

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12. What have you done over your last two summer vacations or long vacations that significantly reflects on your interests or your character?

13. **TRAVEL.** Have you ever traveled extensively or lived in different localities? Where? If you've lived in a foreign country for a long time, please explain why. Comment on any significant travel experience(s) that have helped develop you as a person.

14. Why do you want to go to college?

15. What do you have to offer the college of your choice?

16. What achievements in your life are you most proud of?

17. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths?

18. What do you consider to be your greatest weaknesses?

19. List SIX adjectives or phrases that come to mind when you think of yourself? Or, list SIX adjectives that describe you.

20. What are your aspirations for the future (professional.....vocational.....).

21. Write something about yourself you think is important. What kind of person are you? How are you unique? What would you like to contribute to the world? Think about this, and don't leave it blank.

22. IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? Are there any special circumstances I should know about? Is there anything about yourself you would like to see included in your school recommendation? If you think this form does not adequately represent you, write something that does, and attach it to this.

## WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IN A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

### 1. QUESTIONS RELATED TO ACADEMIC PROGRAM

What academic areas are you interested in pursuing in college (i.e. possible majors)? Please list what you are thinking of.

Is it important to you that the college or university you attend be strong in certain fields (even if you may not want to major in them). If yes, what are the fields (i.e. arts, history, languages, sciences, math, English, etc.)

Do you have any possible ideas about your career goals? Please write what you are thinking of.

Indicate your need or desire for any of the following. Make comments to clarify if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_ Learning center or other support for students with a learning difference.

\_\_\_\_\_ ESL or other support for international students.

\_\_\_\_\_ Primarily Black college, or strong community and/or support for African-American students.

\_\_\_\_\_ Diverse student body.

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's college or active women's community.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

### 2. ATHLETICS

Do you want to continue to play competitive sports, or dance, etc. Please clarify your athletic interests that you'd like to pursue in college.

### 3. QUESTIONS RELATED TO SIZE AND LOCATION

Does geographic location matter to you? Where would you prefer? Explain what is important - i.e. distance from home, climate, etc.

Would you prefer:

- An urban college or university
- A suburban college or university
- A rural college or university

Are any of the above out of the question? If so, which?

Please say why you've chosen the type of location you've chosen. For example, if you want to be in a city because you love the ACTION of a city, would you be happy in a school that was not in a city, but near a city?

Would you prefer:

- A large university
- A medium size university or college
- A small college

### 4. FINANCIAL AID

Will you need financial aid? Do you feel it will be an important factor in what college you choose?

Definitely yes       Maybe       No

5. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL COLLEGE COMMUNITY (What kind of people, what do people do in their spare time, etc.)

6. COLLEGES YOU ARE ALREADY CONSIDERING

If there are colleges you are already considering, what are they?

Have you already visited any colleges or universities? If yes, which ones?

Have you already made plans to visit other colleges or universities? If yes, which ones?

7. TESTING. Please mark which of the following standardized tests you have taken, what your score was, the date you took the test, and when (and if) you plan to take the test again.

PSAT \_\_\_\_\_

SAT I (Verbal) \_\_\_\_\_ (Math) \_\_\_\_\_

SAT II: \_\_\_\_\_

AP Exams: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Subject and Score) (Subject and Score)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Subject and Score) (Subject and Score)

TOEFL \_\_\_\_\_

8. What aspect of the college application process are you LEAST terrified about? Why?

9. What aspect of the college application process are you MOST terrified about? Why?

10. What aspect of the process will you need the most help with? How, specifically, can I help YOU most.

Thank you very much for taking considerable time to fill out this form and the AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH form.

