

## **THE INTERVIEW**

We consider the interview a very helpful aspect of the application process, and urge all students to seek interviews, especially when the college strongly recommends or requires them.

**How important is the interview?** This varies from college to college. A college that requires or strongly urges an interview feels it is significant for both applicant and admissions officer. One that merely recommends them or gives only group sessions may consider the visit necessary for the student, but of less importance in its own decision making.

**Why is it important?** It allows the students to present themselves, their interests and talents, rather than the mere statistical evidence offered on paper. They have the chance to talk about their desire to attend, and to dialogue. In addition, the interview permits the applicants to exercise some control themselves, rather than always being on the receiving end.

**How should students prepare?** They should consider what they wish to communicate, what information is not covered in the application but is important for the college to know, (i.e., particular strength, aims, goals, reasons for having chosen that particular college). In all these considerations, it is important to be honest and forthright. An experienced interviewer will easily discount the insincere or expedient question or comment.

If the interviewer asks something students can't answer, or have trouble remembering, such as the books read in a recent course, the season record of an athletic team, they shouldn't worry or panic. They should say that they need a little time to consider. No one will blame students if they lack total recall. What may hurt them is obvious bluffing.

What happens if the interviewer is inept or uninterested or does all the talking? It is an unfortunate fact that many students are disappointed or discouraged by the person who interviews them. This is unfortunate for two reasons: the interview will never be the one factor that determines acceptance to a college, and if students are accepted they will, in all probability, never see the admissions interviewer again. They should not judge the institution by one representative, whether or not he/she is the interviewer or tour guide.

**What to wear?** Students are encouraged to dress tastefully as they would for an awards program. Girls – nice pants or a skirt. Boys – shirt and tie and dress pants are recommended.

**ABOVE ALL, STUDENTS ARE URGED TO BE PROMPT AND RELAXED.**