

# Seniors: Start your College Applications Now

By Mick Rosenblum

Although an experienced college admissions counselor is the best person to advise you on your college applications, I would like to take a moment to offer a few suggestions. Many students and parents view the application process with considerable trepidation, because they perceive it as a complicated and time-consuming ordeal. But it doesn't have to be!

A good way to tackle your applications is to gather essential information ahead of time, so that you can enter that data, efficiently, into each university or college application. I recommend you download one application (say, from your favorite university) to start with and then use it to help you determine what information you will need for the others. Write down pertinent information such as your social security number, cumulative GPA, course list, sports and club activities, volunteer organizations, high school street address, etc. that you determine you will need for most applications. If you store that information on a computer-based spreadsheet or database, you might be able to cut and paste it into online applications; what a time-saver!

Speaking of spreadsheets, I strongly suggest you create either a spreadsheet or a database to store information regarding each college or university to which you intend to apply. This information should include, not only the name and mailing address of the institution, but also the names, titles, mailing addresses, and direct telephone numbers of the people to whom you have spoken.

If you would like some help setting up or designing your spreadsheet or database, feel free to give me a call; I'll get you up and running and organized in a very short period of time. Incidentally, many (if not most) applications are online these days, so you can download the document, work on it at your convenience, and save it for later . . . you'll submit the applications when you have completed them, so you have no reason to wait to get started.