

## 4

## SESSION IV: THE APPLICATION PROCESS (PART I)

## ACTIVITY #4: INTERVIEWS

### *Opening Discussion:*

Interviews are seldom required. Exceptions include a few highly-selective institutions, as well as some scholarship programs. However, a student should take advantage of the opportunity to interview on or off campus if possible. Students should know that meeting an admission representative “face-to-face,” whether in an informal interview or at a meeting at their school or a college fair, can be helpful in the admission process. Students with “special needs” or with complicated family situations should be encouraged to make personal contact with an admission officer from the colleges to which they plan to apply. Making a good first-impression is important. In this session, students find that role-playing allows them to make and correct mistakes in a “practice” situation.

### *Activity/Handouts:*

#### **Typical College Interview Questions**

**Materials: Flip Chart or blackboard**

### *Instructions:*

1. Give the students a copy of “Typical College Interview Questions.”
2. Ask students to circle at least two questions they are prepared to answer.
3. Demonstrate an introduction: Firm handshake, good eye contact, introducing yourself.
4. Ask students to work with a partner. One is the interviewer, one the student. The student should introduce himself or herself. Then the interviewer should ask a question (one of the ones his partner circled), to which the student responds.
5. Instruct students to switch roles.
6. Ask the students to make comments about what was effective in the interview exercise and write them on the flip chart or board.



## TYPICAL COLLEGE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

If you have the opportunity for an interview with a college admission representative, take advantage of it. This is a chance for you to answer questions about yourself—your interests and accomplishments, your future goals, your reasons for applying to College XYZ, etc. It is also a great opportunity for you to ask questions. Remember, you are trying to decide if this college is a good match for you.

### *Some typical questions you might be asked:*

- Tell us about yourself. What are your favorite classes? What do you want to study in college?
- What are the extracurricular activities you have been most involved with during high school? What were your contributions?
- What do you see as your strengths and weaknesses? Your greatest accomplishments? How would your friends describe you?
- Why are you considering our college? What special programs are you interested in?
- What characteristics are you looking for in the college you will attend?
- Is there anything else you want us to know about you?
- DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

This last question is important—be prepared. Get specific information about the things that interest you most AND show the interviewer you have done your research.

### *Some topics to consider asking about:*

- The admission process at that school
- Specific majors you are interested in
- Special programs, such as freshman seminars, study abroad, etc.
- Social life—clubs and organizations, sororities and fraternities
- Dorm Life—types of housing, food
- Participation in activities such as music, drama, athletics, community service—who participates? How?
- School traditions?

## BE YOURSELF!