

# Things to Consider Before Asking for Recommendations

The people you ask to write a letter of recommendation for you should **really know** you. They do not need to be the teachers who gave you top grades or the coach of the team that you excelled on, but they need to have spent enough quality time with you to know the real you.

The people you are considering should be able to speak **positively** about you in terms of your work ethic, sense of responsibility, character and attitude.

## Preparing Your Brag Sheet for Recommendations

Prepare the following for each person who is writing a recommendation for you. They should be typed and either given to them in person or via email (you can ask them which they prefer).

### Activity resume

It should include:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address.
- If this is for a teacher, it should also include the name of your guidance counselor.

### Your Brag Sheet

It should include:

- The schools you are applying to. If you have a preference as to which you want to attend, prioritize them.
- The major(s) you are interested in.
- What are your three most important extracurricular activities in or out of school? Why are they important? Describe them in detail.
- What is something important about you that the person might not know? (This can be a character trait, an event in your life, a hobby, something about your family life, etc.)
- What's your greatest strength(s)?
- What is one area/weakness that you struggle with? What strategies do you employ to counterbalance that weakness?
- What is/was your greatest obstacle or challenge? How has it affected you? What did you do to work through it?
- Describe a success you've had during high school (it can be in or out of school).
- What was your proudest moment in high school (it can be in or out of school)? Why?
- What would you say you got out of (insert name of class/activity)? If you had to do it all over again, what, if anything, would you do differently?
- Who inspires/has made an impact on you?
- What do you hope to get from your college experience?
- What careers are you considering?
- What will your college essay be about?