



## Decision Time

 SQUARE PEG  
SQUARE HOLE  
COACHING  
*find the right fit!*

## Deciding Where to Go

Making your final decision on where to go to college can be difficult especially if you have many great options. This workbook will help you consider your choices. Reviewing your criteria and comparing your schools can help you narrow down your list and ultimately select the school that fit you best academically, socially, emotionally and financially.

### Instructions:

1. Write your criteria on the **Top 10 Characteristics of My Ideal College** worksheet on page 2. [Check out the **College Fit Questions** on pages 5-7 if you need help defining your criteria.]
2. Write the names of the colleges you're considering attending on the **My College List** worksheet on page 3.
3. It's time to narrow down your list to the school which is the best fit for you.
  - Consider your **Top 10 Characteristics** on page 2.
  - Review your notes from visiting and researching the schools.

How well does each school on your list meet your criteria? Which schools rise to the top?

4. Having trouble deciding? Use the **Rate the Colleges** worksheet on page 4 to help you evaluate the schools.

Complete one form for each school you are considering.

- Write your Top 10 Characteristics in the first column.
- In the second column rank the school characteristics from 1 to 10 based on how important they are to you. The higher the rank, the more weight it will carry. (Note: This means you must prioritize the criteria. Don't give two characteristics the same ranking.)
- Rate the school on a scale of 1 to 10 according to how well it meets each criteria.
- Multiply column 2 X column 3.
- Add the scores to find your total rating for the school.
- Compare the results.

Use these scores along with your notes on each school to help you narrow your list.

5. Talk to me, your parents and guidance counselor. We can help you make your final choice.

Congratulations on choosing the school that's right for you!

## Top 10 Characteristics of My Ideal College

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## My College List

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

# Rate the Colleges

College: \_\_\_\_\_

| Characteristic | How Important Is This Criteria to You?<br>(Rank It 1 - 10) | How Well Does This School Meet This Criteria?<br>(Rate It 1-10) | Multiply Column 2 x Column 3 |
|----------------|--|---|------------------------------|
|                |  |   |                              |
|                |  |   |                              |
|                |  |   |                              |
|                |  |   |                              |
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|                |  |   |                              |
|                |  |   |                              |
|                |  |   |                              |
|                |  |   |                              |
|                |  | <b>Total:</b>   |                              |

## College Fit Questions

List five words that describe you.

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How would you describe yourself as a student?

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What do you want to study? If you don't know, write down your favorite subjects.

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Do you want to do research in your field as an undergrad?

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What are your post-college plans? (If grad school, what will you study? If work, what type of career?)

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Would you like to do an internship?

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Do you want to study abroad? Where would you like to go?

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Do you want to be able to come home on the weekend?

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Are you ok with having to fly to get to/from school?

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Do you learn better in a smaller class setting (less than 20 students) than in a large lecture hall?

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Would you prefer a school with a very intellectual/scholarly emphasis or one with a balance between academics and social/extracurricular activities?

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Are you interested in participating in an honors program?

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How important is it to you to attend an ethnically/racially/religiously diverse school?

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Do you want to attend a co-ed, all men or all women college?

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List five characteristics you'd like to see in your fellow students.

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How important is it to attend a prestigious school? Would you go to a school that you've never heard of before?

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How important is cost and financial aid (either merit or need based)?

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What size college would you prefer?

\_\_\_\_\_ Small (fewer than 2,000 students)

\_\_\_\_\_ Medium (2,000 - 15,000 students)

\_\_\_\_\_ Large (more than 15,000 students)

What type of location do you prefer - small town, small city, large city?

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What states and/or regions (Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, New England, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest) would you prefer?

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Are you ok with spending the bulk of your time on campus or do you want to explore the surrounding town/city (museums, events, restaurants)?

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How important is it to have a clearly defined campus versus one that is intermingles with the community?

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Do you like to spend time outdoors hiking, swimming, skiing, riding?

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What extra-curricular activities would you like to do in college (athletics, the arts, clubs)?

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Would you consider joining a fraternity/sorority?

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Do you want a school where everyone attends the football/basketball/hockey game on the weekend?

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Are you an adventurous eater or do you only like certain foods? Do you have food allergies or dietary restrictions?

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Do you have any health issues that require you to be close to home?

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Do you want to play DI, DII, DIII, or club sports? What about intramurals?

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Is there anything else that's important to you that wasn't listed above?

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