



COLLEGE APPLICATION AND ESSAY WORKSHOP



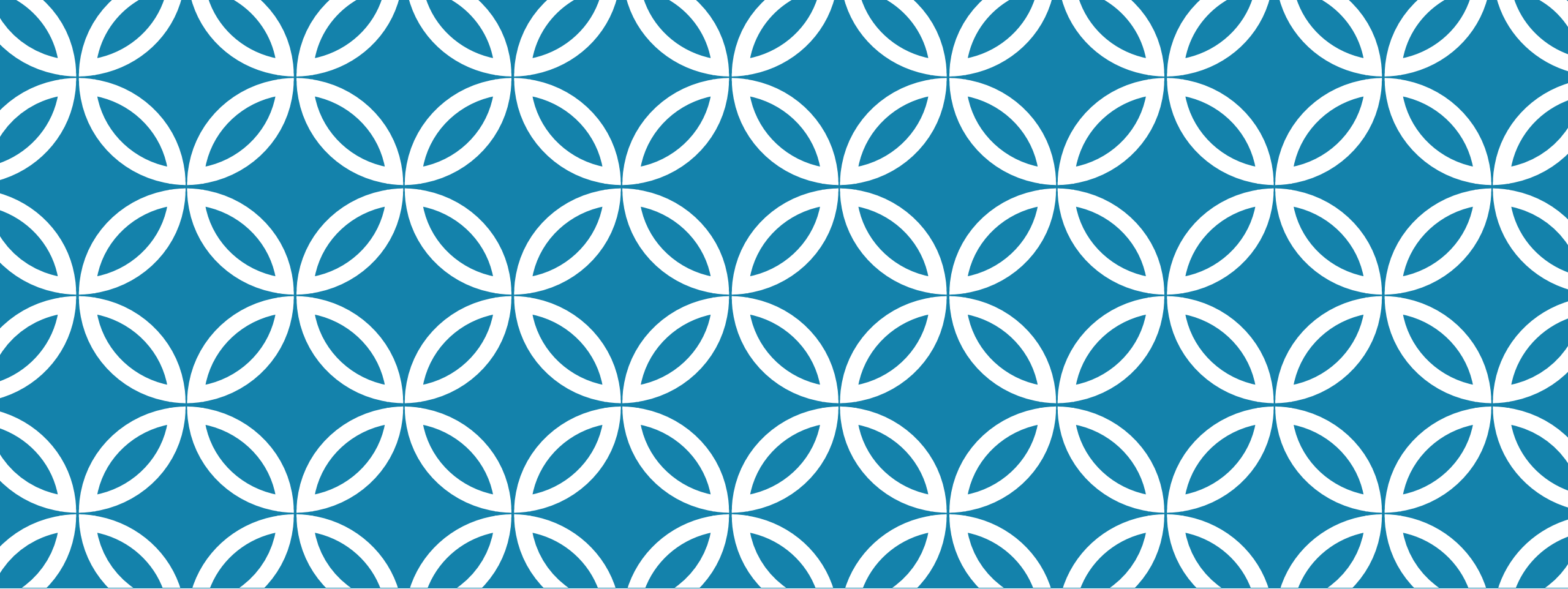


WORKSHOP GOALS

Smart, ambitious plans for applying to colleges this fall

Tips and tricks to help you fill out college application forms and personal information

Knowledge about how to write solid college essays that will stand out to admissions officers



APPLYING TO COLLEGE

(An Overview)

APPLYING TO COLLEGE: AN OVERVIEW

College applications can be complicated, confusing, inconsistent, subjective, and quite unpredictable

You will likely get into schools you didn't expect to and not get into schools where you thought you were a shoe-in

So what's your best ally in the process?



HOW DO I START?

US News & World Report

Yale Daily News' Insider Guide to the Colleges

Teachers, counselors, and friends

College and university websites

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Is it urban/suburban/rural? (location/transportation)

Is it private or public (tuition)?

What academic programs and majors does it offer? (changing your mind)

Special programs and opportunities (study abroad, internships, etc)

Financial aid/scholarships (need blind? need aware?)

Life as a student of color on campus (PWIs v. HBCUs)

OPTIONS!

Don't let your main goal be something as simple as "I want to go to Stanford."

Let it be something more broad like: "I want to go to a prestigious urban public research university that I choose from a list of several that have offered me admission."

How do you do this? Apply to 9-12 colleges and universities

THE APPLICATION SPREAD

Step One: Safety Schools (2-3)

Step Two: Mid-range Schools (3-4)

Step Three: Dream Schools (2-4)



TIPS

Check application due dates NOW and check your calendar!

Look for information about fee waivers and contact schools for more information!

APPLICATION TIMELINE

State Schools: Early Fall, Rolling, etc.

Ivy League & Liberal Arts: January 1

The Key: check with schools early!



ADMISSION

Rolling or late spring (March – May)

RESULTS

If you write good essays and submit a good application, you will likely be admitted to at least one school in each category

Options mean flexibility in visiting schools, taking a second look, and bargaining for a better aid package

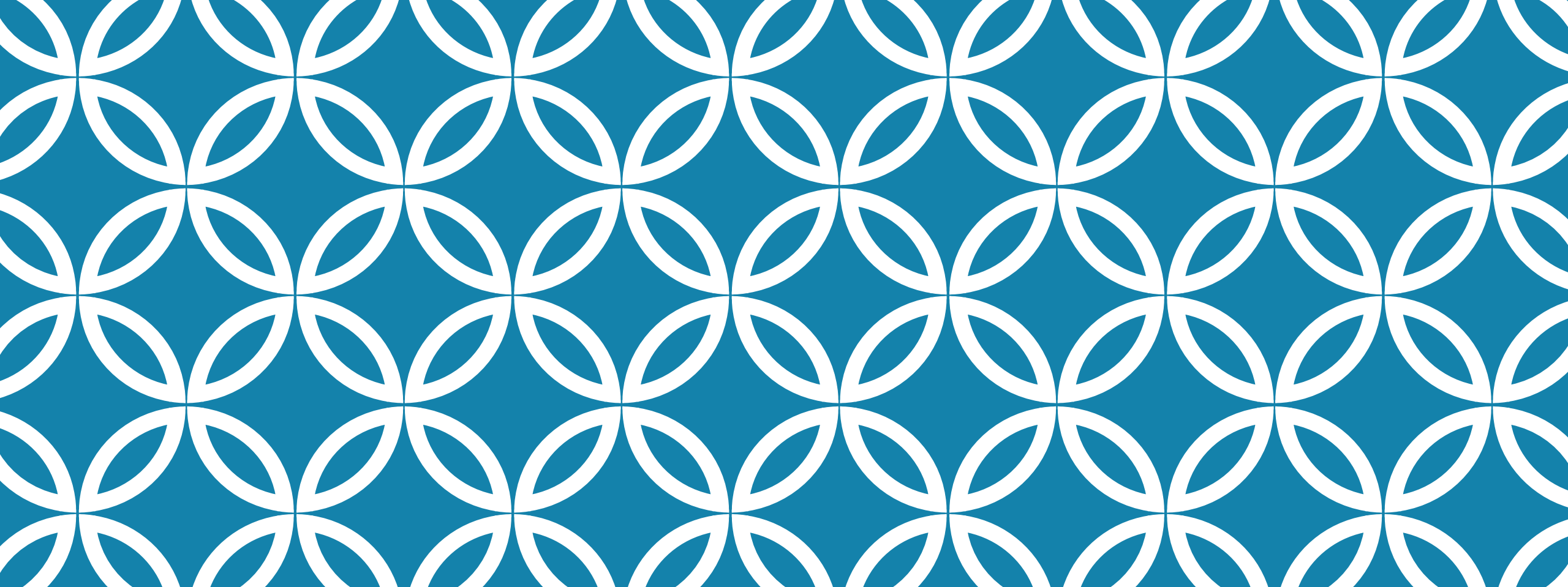
MAKING THE DECISION

Financial factors: aid package, grants v. loans, types of loans, scholarships, appeals (unsubsidized, subsidized, alternative, private)

Admission Offer – major/program, time of entry, special circumstances

Prestige of School – this matters less than how you feel the school suits you

MOST IMPORTANT – the vibe or “feel” that the school is the right fit for you



APPLICATIONS 101



APPLICATION COMPONENTS

SAT/ACT Scores

Transcripts

Letters of Recommendation

Common Application/College Application

Essays & Personal Statements

Portfolios, Photos, Extras (varies)

Mid-Year/End-of-Year Reports

In-Person Interviews (varies)

FINANCIAL AID COMPONENTS

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

CSS Profile (Private Schools)

Your/Your Parents' Tax Returns/Financial Information

Bank Information

College-specific information and forms

APPLICATIONS 101

Applications are more than just forms, they are extended résumés!

Writing a good application makes your piece of paper stand out from the rest.

When interviews are not part of the package, applications are all you have to show schools who are you beyond the SAT scores!

APPLICATION TIPS

Clubs, Awards, Honors – be specific, clear, and detailed (but keep it neat!)

Don't assume admissions officers know what your school's specific clubs/awards mean

Emphasize qualities like leadership, unique achievements, and things you started/created

Find a way to explain any poor grades on your transcript and other circumstances you feel might affect your admission

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Ask them from people who know you and who you've worked with – not strangers or random teachers, counselors, or administrators

Give your letter-writers plenty of time (at least two weeks – a month is better) and ask them to save the letter (for other schools, apps)

Don't ask for them from people who you think will write the letter poorly or include ANY negative content

Don't ask "Can you write me a letter of recommendation?", ask "Can you write me a strong letter of recommendation"



TYPES OF ESSAYS

Personal statements

Problems/conflicts

Leadership & innovation

Work samples

Short answer questions

ESSAY TIPS

Say what you want to say, and say it well: be clear, concise, and to the point

Respect word limits and suggested lengths given to you by the school

Proofread and edit your essays. Then do it again. Have family members and friends read it as well.

Start early on your essays and be prepared to have two kinds: first, your “golden essay,” one you can tweak or use for several schools, and second, essays that answer specific questions used for particular schools

ESSAY TIPS (CONTINUED)

Avoid clichés, sob stories, exaggerated stories, unclear or overly personal content

Use the essays to explain any doubts or whatever you think the college wants to know

Align your essay's content and purpose to the unique qualities/mission of the school

Think of what the essay questions are REALLY asking of you

ESSAY 911 HELPLINE

If you'd like comments or editing help with a college/scholarship essay, please send a draft of your essay, along with the question or prompt from the relevant application, to <desiree.barron@tellurideassociation.org>, as far in advance of the deadline as possible. We recommend giving us at least a week to make sure you can send another draft if necessary