

## Claire's Guide to College Applications

### **SUMMER BEFORE JUNIOR YEAR AND JUNIOR YEAR:**

1. SAT/ACT prep
2. Make list of schools you're interested in and why. Note their application release date (some are live in July) and application type (common app or their own application). Also note their admission statistics.
3. Take entrance exam

### **SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR:**

1. Write personal statement
2. Fill out your common app (BEST THING I EVER DID WAS HAVE THIS FINISHED AT THE END OF MY JUNIOR YEAR). If you haven't taken entrance exams yet or are still trying to do better, still fill it out because you can always just type in the numbers.
3. If a school you're interested in releases their app over the summer, just do it as soon as it's released.
4. Prepare answers to short answer questions such as "why do you want to attend this university" and "what makes you unique" and "what are you passionate about". These are usually 100-200 words.
5. Continue test prep if necessary.

### **SENIOR YEAR**

*\*The first six weeks of senior year suck and are so hard but it sucks for everyone. Keep your head up because you've been through worse.\**

1. Finish up entrance exams
2. Finish all applications
3. Don't get lost in the senior year drama that always occurs. You're stronger than that.
4. You WILL get in somewhere that's a great fit for you. Don't buy into stereotypes or acceptance rate hierarchy. Just love where you're applying and don't listen to negativity. Never let anyone make you feel bad about where you're applying. I did not apply to any Ivy League school despite being a double legacy at Penn. I love Pitt and it's a better school for me. Find what's best for you.
6. Don't fall into the senioritis trap. Keep your mind sharp and be prepared to starve college well. Slacking off may affect your performance in college.