(School Logo Here)

College Counselor Recommendation Template

**Student Full Name** School Name Class of 2020



Distinctive Qualities



Start with a story that highlights the student’s intellectual curiosity, engagement in community, ethical character, and commitment to others. Is there a notable quality or experience that this student has that distinguishes them from others? Who is this student in your school community and what do they have to offer a college campus both in the classroom and out? What word would friends, staff, and family use to describe the applicant (e.g., thoughtful, resilient, funny, focused, etc.)?

 Academic History & Interests



* When did the student enroll at your school? Where were they coming from?
* What courses and experiences have they taken advantage of academically?
* Are there any special notes about your school’s curriculum that need highlighting?
* Are there specific circumstances about a student’s course program that should be articulated?
* How has the student challenged themself and how demanding are the courses they have chosen?
* Does the student know what they want to study in college or have specific academic interests that should be shared?
* Were there certain courses that the student wanted to take but could not because of scheduling or another conflict?
* What words do teachers usually use to describe the student (e.g., “curious” “fluid writer”, etc.)

Activities & Interests



* In what ways has the student been involved at school? Is the student an athlete, artist, musician, or part of some other group on campus?
* In what ways has the student been involved outside of school? Are they active in a church community, service, athletics, or local organization of note?
* What does the student do in the summers?
* Does the student have any special interests or talents?
* What impact has the student made?
* Have they received any recognition for their involvement?
* Why does the applicant do what they do?
* How sustained has their involvement been?
* Has the student held a job?
* Are there ways that the student has demonstrated leadership, either formally or informally?
* How has the student shown concern for others and/or contributed to their community?

Personal History & Family/Community Context



* Does the student have siblings? Are they in, or have they graduated from, college?
* Are there any family dynamics or experiences that need to be mentioned?
* Does the applicant have significant responsibilities at home (e.g., caring for a sibling or elderly relative)?
* Are there other factors in a student’s upbringing, living situation, and/or community that would be helpful in providing context for the student, opportunities they have or have not had, and any possible adversities or challenges they have faced?

Summary

This is an opportunity to provide a final snapshot of the student and what they have to offer a college. What are their hopes for the future, how will they contribute and why should the college accept this student? This might include a quote from the student, a final story, or thoughts from a faculty advisor. What do you want the reader to remember about the applicant? Is the student highly recommended?

# **h**ighlights **f**rom **t**eachers' **c**omments

**Class #1 Title**: “Brief teacher comment about student as a learner”

**Class #2 Title**: “Brief teacher comment about student as a learner”

**Class #3 Title**: “Brief teacher comment about student as a learner”

Respectfully Submitted, DATE

Counselor’s Name

Position Title

School Name

Last reviewed August 2020.

From Ross Anderson, T. & Weissbourd, R. (2020). *Character assessment in college admission: A guide of best practices with accompanying resources.* Retrieved from <https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu>

Access our full suite of character assessment in college admission resources: <http://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/resources-for-colleges/character-assessment-college-admission-guide-overview>

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