

Tips for Parents of Seniors

Now is the time to:

- Understand there will be stress.
- Acknowledge that your student may see a peer's opinions and ideas equally as important as yours.
- See this time as an opportunity to learn about yourselves and your child.
- Work together. Your teen may not say so, but s/he probably wants your involvement and approval.
- Encourage your teen to get to know himself or herself, and then let the choices be your son or daughter's. S/he must live with the choice.
- Recognize that other family members have needs too.
- Resist the temptation to be critical and judgmental.
- Encourage your student to brainstorm about and solicit feedback about the very important application essay.
- See home and school as working together.

Now is not the time to:

- Make your child's college and career decision so that s/he feels like a failure if s/he doesn't please you or is rejected at the school of your choice.
- See your teen's choice as a reflection on you.
- Compete with your family and friends for "Most Brilliant Child".
- Let college and career conversations dominate family life for months on end.