

THE GPA GAME



About the GPA Game

The *GPA (Grade Point Average) Game* is a fun, mock-admission simulation for students. The purpose of the game is to create awareness of the many factors that are considered in college admission decisions.

Game Preparation

1. Print out all the GPA cards - two-sided - and put them into a file folder.
2. Ask 8 student volunteers to pick a card out of the folder (without looking).
3. Find an additional volunteer to play the “Director of Admissions.”
4. Give the students a few minutes to become familiar with their cards.
5. Students should then line up facing the class in order of GPA. The highest GPA should be to the right from the class’s point of view. (Left from their point of view.)
6. The students should hold up the card with the GPA side facing the class.

The Director of Admissions

Read to the class: There are factors other than a student’s *Grade Point Average (GPA)* that are considered in the college admission process. During the game, notice how some students move closer to admission (further to the right) and others move further away.

Read to the student volunteers: As I read each statement, look at your card to see if that particular statement is there. If it is on your card and I tell you to *move up*, you will move to your *left*. If it is on your card and I tell you to *move down*, you will move to your *right*.

Any questions? I will now read the statements on pages 2 and 3.

Wrap-up:

Colleges are not looking for any one type of student. They look for accomplished students who bring a lot to the admission’s table. You can see that decisions are made by a combination of objective and subjective factors, and these factors often differ in importance from one college to the next.

Sample Discussion Questions

- What were the factors considered during the game? (courses taken, grades received, essays, legacy, recommendations, etc.)
- Does the highest GPA always determine college admission at a selective college?
- Does having a mediocre record in high school mean you will never get into your “dream” college?
- What other factors besides the ones covered in the game can determine where you go to college? (money, proximity to home, diversity, unusual life experiences, etc.)

STATEMENTS:

- 1) IF YOU HAVE TAKEN AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG ACADEMIC PROGRAM, MOVE UP TWO SPACES. (Cards 3.7 and 3.1)
- 2) IF YOU DIRECT THE GOSPEL CHOIR AT YOUR CHURCH, MOVE UP ONE SPACE. (2.9)
- 3) IF YOU CLEARLY STATED THAT THIS COLLEGE IS YOUR FIRST CHOICE BY MAKING AN EARLY DECISION APPLICATION AND COMMITMENT, MOVE UP TWO SPACES. (3.3)
- 4) IF YOU CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY AS YOUR INTENDED MAJOR, MOVE DOWN ONE SPACE. (3.3)
- 5) IF YOU CHOSE GREEK AS YOUR INTENDED MAJOR, MOVE UP ONE SPACE. (3.5)
- 6) IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR TEACHERS WELL ENOUGH TO FEEL COMFORTABLE ASKING FOR A RECOMMENDATION, MOVE DOWN ONE SPACE. (2.9)
- 7) IF, WHEN YOU TYPED YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY, YOU FORGOT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE COLLEGE WHERE YOU WERE APPLYING, MOVE DOWN THREE SPACES. (4.1)
- 8) IF YOU ARE A LEGACY AT THE COLLEGE TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING, MOVE UP TWO SPACES. (2.8)
- 9) IF YOU DID NOT WRITE THE OPTIONAL ESSAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION, MOVE DOWN ONE SPACE. (2.8)
- 10) IF YOU CHOSE AS THE TOPIC OF YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY SPORTS AS A METAPHOR FOR LIFE, MOVE DOWN ONE SPACE. (3.7)
- 11) IF YOU WROTE THE "ESSAY OF THE YEAR", THE ONE THAT EVERYONE PASSED AROUND IN THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE, MOVE UP TWO SPACES. (3.1)

- 12) IF YOU PLAGIARIZED YOUR COLLEGE ADMISSION ESSAY AND GOT CAUGHT, SIT DOWN. YOU'RE OUT OF THE COMPETITION ENTIRELY. (3.3)
- 13) IF YOU WILL BE THE FIRST IN YOUR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE, MOVE UP TWO SPACES. (3.5)
- 14) IF YOU ATTENDED AN ENRICHING SUMMER PROGRAM BETWEEN YOUR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR, MOVE UP TWO SPACES. (3.1)
- 15) IF YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN NO SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES, MOVE DOWN TWO SPACES. (3.7)
- 16) IF YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT, MOVE UP ONE SPACE. (4.1)
- 17) IF YOU ARE AN EAGLE SCOUT, MOVE UP TWO SPACES. (3.7)
- 18) IF YOU ARE A VARSITY ATHLETE AND ALL-REGION IN THAT SPORT, MOVE UP ONE SPACE. (4.0)
- 19) IF YOU GOT A "D" IN AN ACADEMIC COURSE AT THE END OF YOUR JUNIOR YEAR, MOVE DOWN THREE SPACES. (3.1)
- 20) IF YOU WROTE A LETTER TO THE COLLEGE ADMISSION OFFICER AND EXPLAINED THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING A GRADE OF "D", MOVE UP ONE SPACE. (3.1)
- 21) IF YOU DECIDED TO PROTECT YOUR GPA BY NOT TAKING AP CLASSES OFFERED AT YOUR SCHOOL, MOVE DOWN TWO SPACES. (4.0)
- 22) IF YOUR LAST NAME IS TRUMP, AND THE NAME ON THE COLLEGE LIBRARY IS TRUMP, AND IT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE, MOVE ALL THE WAY TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE AND STAY THERE. (2.8)

Return to the wrap-up on page 1.