



## Organizing Schoolwide Events

# Senior Day of Action Guidelines

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A set of guidelines from Tilden High School and Umoja Student Development Corporation on how to engage in one-on-one interviews with seniors as they navigate the college application process.

## Senior Day of Action Guidelines

### Sample from Tilden High School and Umoja Student Development Corporation

The Senior Day of Action is an opportunity for volunteers to help seniors navigate the college application process.

The One-on-One student interviews are a very important part of today's experience. Since the beginning of the school year, students have been immersed in some difficult discussions about college and their readiness for life after Tilden. The portfolio you will see from many students is a physical representation of some of the critical questions they have tackled. Depending on where they are in the process, they may still be tackling those questions.

#### Some of the questions include

- Who am I? Who do I want to be? How will I get from where I am to where I want to be?
- What will make or break my success?
- Is college for me? What is the perfect college for me?
- How do my choices today impact my options tomorrow?

#### What you can expect today

- You will conduct 2 to 3 twenty-minute One-on-One Interviews (3 rounds).
- Take a minute to introduce yourself and tell them a little about your background. Allow the student to introduce himself or herself.
- For the next 5 to 7 minutes, the student will share his/her responses to some of the questions above with the portfolio. If the student doesn't take the lead, feel free to jump in and ask questions.
- The remaining 10 to 12 minutes should be spent having a conversation that pushes the student to dig a little deeper and force a little more personal reflection.
- Allow 5 minutes for the student to ask you some questions.
- Use your final 3 to 5 minutes wrapping up with some parting words of advice and feedback on how the student represented himself or herself.
- Please don't hesitate to share your personal experiences, mistakes, and successes. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about the many different paths people take in life to get to where they are today.

### Guiding questions

You may use the following prompts/questions to help the conversation along if the conversation doesn't flow organically on its own.

- Tell me about yourself.
- What do you do for fun?
- What has been your greatest challenge in high school? How did you overcome it?
- In what ways have you contributed to the Tilden Community?
- How have you changed as a person since your freshman year?
- What is your greatest weakness? What is your greatest strength?
- What do you see yourself doing in 5 to 10 years? How did you come to realize that?
- You've spent 4 years in high school. If you could do one thing differently, what would it be?
- Do your grades accurately reflect who you are as a student and/or person?
- What does success look like to you?
- Why do you want to (or not want to) go to college?
- Who do you most admire? Why?
- What makes you special?

### Questions for students with a more career-focused portfolio

- What jobs or volunteer experiences have you held during high school?
- What extra-curricular activities have you been involved with?
  - Have you volunteered or participated in service learning projects?
  - What skills or positive habits do you believe you gained or strengthened from the experience?
  - What lessons did you learn yourself, working with others, etc.?
- Do you believe the job/volunteer experience gives you an advantage when seeking out future opportunities?
- Tell me about a time when you had to adjust to a classmate's working style in order to complete a project or reach a goal.
- What steps do you take to study a problem before making a decision? Why? Give an example.
- Tell me about a successful experience you had making a speech or presentation.
  - How did you prepare?
  - What obstacles did you face?
  - How did you handle them?

- Give an example of a time when you were able to successfully communicate with another person, even when the individual may not have personally liked you (or vice versa). How did you handle the situation?
- Tell me about a problem that you solved in a unique or unusual way. What was the outcome? Were you happy or satisfied with it?
- Give an example of a time when you had to make a decision quickly. What obstacles did you face? What did you do?
- Have you ever had to make a decision that was unpopular with your peers, but you made it anyway because you knew it was the right decision?
- Tell me about a team project when you had to take the lead. What did you do? How did you do it? What was the result?
- Are you someone who uses your time well? Why or why not?
- Describe a situation that required you to do a number of things at the same time. How did you handle it? What was the result?
- How do you prioritize projects and tasks when scheduling time?