How To Get Into An Ivy League School: A Step-by-Step Guide
Featuring Testimony From a Real, Live Silver-Spoon Legacy and a Racial Minority!

IvyGate’s Guide to Admissions: Part II

Getting into an Ivy League school can be likened to winning the lottery: Pencil in a bunch of scantron bubbles, cross your fingers, pray to be struck by lightning. But instead of winning millions, you’re rolling the dice for the opportunity to impoverish your parents. (Or ruin your credit rating, or both!) Nevertheless, aspiring Ivy is a time-honored American pursuit, and no matter how improbable, impractical, and ultimately unpleasant the prize may be, thousands attempt it every year. Mostly, we do it for the free t-shirts.

What follows is IvyGate’s foolproof, guaranteed, 100% success-or-your-money-back step-by-step guide to swindling your way into the school of your dreams.* Be warned: It isn’t always pretty, and a few of these steps (#3, section ii, second option) might make you go to hell.

1. Have perfect SAT scores, an off-the-chart GPA, amazing extracurriculars, leadership positions in everything, and the ability to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Duh. This one is a given, a prereq, if you will. Even the richest kid in the world won’t get in if he’s apt to flunk (or, more likely, drop) out.

2. Be from an insanely wealthy and/or well-connected family, preferably one with an Ivy League legacy. Apply early. While legacy admission standards aren’t as hilariously low as they used to be, a study by Princeton SOC professors Espenshade and Chung equates legacy status with a 160-point SAT boost (on a 1600-point scale) to the privileged few who definitely need it least. But that’s not what we’re talking about here. To guarantee admission, you need to be the child of a major donor, the kind who write seven-digit checks to their alma mater and have buildings named after them. One such Ivy Leaguer, the grandson of a prominent university trustee, told us about his admissions process, starting with an unconventional and star-studded campus tour:

   my grandad flew to meet my dad & i [at the university], and i just figured that it was going to be a regular day of tours & walking around. however, when we got there we were met by a super friendly admissions guy. he took us on the regular tour, but then we ditched it because he said “it’s completely useless” (ironic, considering how much energy & money the university pumps into those tours) he took me around campus, and then brought me to meet a representative from the most popular department at the school, which i claimed to be interested in it. (later, i realized that he was one of the senior professors and chair of the undergraduate program) then they shuttled me over to the president’s office. i didn’t really GET that it was the president until they told me after we met. the meeting was brief, but looking back, it was quite an unbelievable opportunity. after lunch, we wandered around campus with another admissions rep, who told me all about undergraduate life.

After the jump: Anonymous Silver-Spooner (ASS) (Don’t be mad, ASS! We tease because we love/hate) continues his story and we offer five more tips for getting in.

As for his literal, ink-on-paper application, it was the same as anyone else’s:

   [my grandfather] was definitely noted as an alumnus on my application – but not in any special way, just in that box where they ask you to denote any alumni relations. i
submitted my application via Registered Mail (like everyone else...to make sure it got there), so there were no special addresses or markings on it.

This fits accounts from the Daily Beast’s admissions-side account. The admissions officer received ASS’s application was probably already familiar with his name, and knew to flag his app for whatever special treatment the Dean of Admissions prescribed. Would ASS have gotten in without his trustee grandpop?

i mean duh... there is no question that my connection helped me out. (i remember being worried at the time, but but looking back it was like “why was i ever for a SECOND concerned about not getting that ‘YES!’ letter?”) at the same time, i don’t think my grades & sat scores could’ve prevented me from getting in.

ASS reports little special treatment post-admissions:

i don’t think i really had any special treatment once i got in (living in [shitty dorm] freshman year really drives home that point) i think the only ‘special’ thing was that my adviser was eventually switched to the guy who chaired the department that i was, at the time, interested in. however, he was so useless that i would say that he made me a lot less interested in pursuing that path – i ended up choosing a totally opposite major.

3. Exploit your minority status, hide your white background, avoid being Asian. Espenshade and Chung estimate a 230-point boost for African-Americans, 185 points for Hispanics, a 50-point deduction for Asian-Americans, and nothing for Whitey. Currently, the Common App allows students to self-identify multiple races or none at all; thus, the following guidelines:

- **i. Non-Asian Minorities:** List your race in the section provided for it and devote at least one essay to race-related “grappling.” If possible, join an organization (preferably a charitable one!) that focuses on your ethnic background and/or related backgrounds: Not only does this allow you to bring up your race more than once, it’ll help with all that grappling! Since you’re an Ivy-aspiring young’un, you should already be introspective and caring enough to do these things on your own. But if you’re among the dispassionately aggressive multitude that manages to take every Ivy League class by storm, you’ll be wise enough to fake it.

- **ii. White folk:** You have two options. The first option is to be honest, check off the “White/Caucasian” bubble, and move on. The second option might make you go to hell, but if you want to go to Harvard, you’re probably into fiery torture, anyway: So: Fudge the truth. This could mean checking off the “Other” bubble. (Race is a social construct! We’re all “out of Africa,” anyway!) Alternately, you could take advantage of that one great-great-grandmother who might have been part Iroquois because she had the most gorgeous cheekbones. We spoke to a white, US-born child of Apartheid-era South Africans who identified himself as “African-American” on his application. No word on whether it ever came up. Of course, we’ll never know if it mattered, or if he got in on merit.

- **iii. Asians:** You’re screwed. It’s not the negative-50 SAT points that will get you, it’s the nebulous world of underhanded anti-Asian discrimination that upper education can’t quite shake, of late. Part I of our guide saw an admissions officer snorting at “another Asian math genius with no personality.” This time, let’s try the account of a Yale student from the West Coast:

My interviewer complimented me as a breath of fresh air because he sees a lot of really smart Asian fellows come in with absolutely no personality, who just do well in school, and he laments that they don’t seem to have lives outside of school, making for really boring interviews. The funny thing is that I was pretty much exactly that throughout high school (except of Mexican heritage), but he just happened to catch all the wrong, “not-an-academic-recluse” signals from me.

While interviews are generally irrelevant (see #4) the sentiment is startlingly pervasive. Asians who want to beat the odds can decline to name their race, but it’s not like they won’t notice if your name
is, say, Jian Li. If you feel like going to hell, try the fudging techniques listed in section ii. (As a mixed-
Asian girl with a white name, I should probably note that race denial can turn its subjects into
depressed, addled un-people and probably isn't worth it. Then again, the sandblast of time may have
dulled my memory of how it feels to be a desperately ambitious, upwardly-mobile eighteen-year-old,
so my risk/reward calculus could be off.)

4. Know that your alumni interview is meaningless. Did you really think Admissions cares about
the opinion of some old guy who blathers about his roles in the campus comedy troupe and how much
ass he got in college? Alumni interviews serve two purposes:

- 1. Weed out total psychos (so avoid brandishing lethal objects and keep that theory about
   being the second coming of Jesus to yourself)
- 2. Keep alumni enthusiastically involved (and paying their dues) in Alumni Clubs

In theory, an exceptionally glowing review could make a difference. In practice, alumni interviewers
always give glowing reviews, because people who voluntarily spend their free time querying high
school seniors about their hopes and dreams are also the ones who find stories about your high school
debate team utterly fascinating. They think everyone and their three-legged dogs would benefit from a
Cornell education. They’re like The X-Files: They want to believe.

5. Pimp your athletic skills, especially in sports that barely exist outside of upper education
(crew, we’re looking at you). Apply early. Espenshade and Chung estimate a 200-point SAT
bonus to recruited athletes, which is roughly the same as Insider Higher Ed’s recent data on non-Ivy
universities’ athletic admissions. Once admitted, you don’t even have to stay on the team—admissions
are “merit-based” and financial aid is “need-based,” which means they can’t take away your admission
or funding should you cut and run halfway through preseason training. A former varsity rower tells us
recruitment is an easy game to play:

  recruitment’s honestly a joke. i became a serious recruit at both brown and dartmouth
just by emailing the coach. otherwise, coaches catch onto people at national regattas
or whatever, but for the most part, smaller sports like crew are pretty easy to get
recruited for if you’re any good at all and have the academics to back you up. i was
recruited at dartmouth, brown, harvard, and colgate. i also reached out to yale and
princeton but they didn’t seem too interested.

You might have to apply early, though. An article in yesterday’s The Dartmouth notes

  “Coaches have a roster that they have to fill, so if you apply early, they know months
in advance who they are getting and what positions they still need to fill,” Lauren
Goodnow ’12, a recruited track athlete said. “When I had recruits staying with me,
they were all pressured to apply early decision.”

Recruited athletes make up 30 to 35 percent of the students admitted early decision to
Dartmouth, according to Parish. Also, 18 to 19 percent of each incoming class are
recruited athletes.

6. The Un-Legacy: First-generation college students as trendy new minority? A growing
interest in first-generation college students has reached the Ivy League: Brown, Cornell and
Dartmouth recently added special resources for first-generation students, which means admissions
awareness must also be increasing. From an admissions standpoint, first-generation students are
attractive: They are likely quite self-motivated and parental education tends to correspond with
socioeconomic status, which is among the many statuses Ivy League universities claim to care about
these days. (Of course, the easiest way to quantify socioeconomic status would be to plug in
everyone's financial aid applications backwards, but for many reasons, some of which could—maybe—be related to step #2, they don’t do this.) If anyone successfully completes all six tasks—you’d have to be the athletic and supremely intelligent offspring of a mega-philanthropic Ivy League graduate and a person who didn’t go to college, at least one of whom is a non-Asian minority, who has no qualms about exploiting his/her background and disregarding the kind words of aging alumni—you are officially the most powerful human in America, and we respectfully request to marry you. (Come to think of it, did we just describe Barack Obama?)

*IvyGate in no way endorses or accepts responsibility for applicants who take any of this advice, especially if they actually get into an Ivy League school, in which case they will likely spend the next four years of their lives in a self-hating funk, surviving on nothing but coffee, stale beer, and stress.

150 Comments (Open | Close)

150 Comments To "How To Get Into An Ivy League School: A Step-by-Step Guide Featuring Testimony From a Real, Live Silver-Spoon Legacy and a Racial Minority!"

#1 Comment By Reason On January 13, 2009 @ 5:16 pm

Excellent post.

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#3 Comment By Inside Info On January 13, 2009 @ 6:26 pm

I had a 2-year stint at an Ivy League admissions office (no, not Dartmouth). The information presented in the Ivygate piece is extremely accurate.

A bit of friendly advice for the Asians:

1. You should never, EVER talk about affirmative action in your application and/or interview. Yes, the system is actively hurting you and you may support Prop 209 in California, but if anyone asks, you full-heartedly support affirmative action because you value diversity. Most admissions officers know that it's an unfair system, and they don't like to be reminded of this fact by a bunch of snot-nosed 18-year-olds. They probably know a lot more about affirmative action than you do. On a related note, please don't make references to the Bakke or Gratz/Grutter case in your essay(s). Admissions officers have allergic reactions to anything un-PC.

2. Although there is no explicit/implicit quota, many admissions officers have certain negative preconceived notions about an Asian applicant. Unfortunately, many – if not most – Asian applicants don’t deviate too much from the stereotype. Smart Asian applicants can take advantage of this. Devote yourself to extracurricular activities which are typically devoid of Asians. If you are interested in music, pick up a guitar or become a composer. You are not helping yourself by picking up a violin or any other stereotypically Asian instrument. Pursue these classical instruments ONLY IF you are going to be good enough for prestigious conservatories. Instead of joining math/science teams, get involved with the poetry club, journalism, theater, cooking, etc. In general, be artsy and (at least seemingly) independent-minded. If you are an athlete, try to avoid tennis/badminton. Try football or other organized sports. If you are going to volunteer, try to avoid working at a hospital (screams premed) or go on church-sponsored missions. If your true passion is the violin/math/science/medicine, well...
tough luck. Unless you are really, really good at what you do, you have to choose between your passion and Harvard.

3. #2 applies to your academics as well. If you attend a public school with an honors track, do not pick the combination of courses that will yield the highest weighted GPA. Chances are, there will be 10+ other applicants from your school who took the same classes. Take at least one or two classes per year that are atypical (and don’t necessarily have the honors/AP designation). You may sacrifice your rank/GPA a bit, but you’ll be infinitely more interesting.

4. If you first language is not English, it doesn’t help to take an SAT II in your primary language. On the other hand, it does help if you have attained proficiency in a third language.

To sum it up, if you are an Asian applicant, your job is to play against the stereotype. You want to be the “breath of fresh air” – a pleasant surprise. Of course, it doesn’t hurt to have perfect numbers. But that’s far less important than finding and presenting a unique voice.

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Good Job, I can appreciate an informative (more so than funny) article from time-to-time.

Ideas for next week:

Admissions Essays

There are a lot of ‘legendary’ essay stories that people pass around about how “Some guy wrote his essay about X and still got into Y”.

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Maureen O’Connor, you’re an idiot, whoever you are. I know the staff of this shitty blog isn’t very diverse, but the shit you publish is downright offensive and has a white bias. I hope your intentions were satirical (honestly, it’s hard to call) but even then, fuck you for parts 3i, 3ii and 3iii. You’re the kind of person that sets our country back. And fuck this site for assuming that its readers and everyone in the ivy league is either white or asian.

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Oh my GOD how is it y’all are still alive?
Did satan the anti Christ america have a productive holiday break killing Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam?
Don’t forget to worship your rothschild gods before bedtime tonight.
Oh your world wouldn’t be the same if they actually had to face up to the law on their asses like every other king and baron and lord that came before them. It’s so insane the way those worthless piece of shit rothschilds get so much respect for hiding their evil ever so slightly but not completely. It’s great the way they busted all you dumb ass americans to do all their most evil shit for them and you yanks don’t feel bad about the mass murder of six million Jewish people your daddies paid for.
Not only is the law going to catch up and bust the crew of americans who did 911 to themselves but it’s the same crew of morines who allowed the Lockerbie bombing, Air India bombing. You allowed Pearl Harbor, it was another false flag operation like the Germans getting in the Polish soldiers uniforms and attacking Germany so the Germans could make some slaves and pay off their american bankers building their instant militarized armed forces.
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#33 Comment By So Juicy! On January 14, 2009 @ 3:11 pm

I love this post for a few reasons:

1. christianarchisti is back! With a fantastically appropriate little picture too!

2. Less than 20 comments in and people are already telling each other the “SHUT THE FUCK UP”

3. Presumably 95% of the readership is already in an Ivy, or at least in some college, so this post is more of a humorous look back than a real help.

I’d say you should do a stint on Ivy grad school admissions, but most schools will admit they’re very simple: Do you have good grades? Do you have good recommendations?

#34 Comment By So Juicy! On January 14, 2009 @ 11:11 am

I love this post for a few reasons:

1. christianarchisti is back! With a fantastically appropriate little picture too!
2. Less than 20 comments in and people are already telling each other the “SHUT THE FUCK UP”

3. Presumably 95% of the readership is already in an Ivy, or at least in some college, so this post is more of a humorous look back than a real help.

I’d say you should do a stint on Ivy grad school admissions, but most schools will admit they’re very simple: Do you have good grades? Do you have good recommendations?

#35 Comment By H12 On January 14, 2009 @ 3:51 pm

Metropolitan, I understand your frustration that many people automatically assume that minorities were accepted on the basis of affirmative action rather than your merits, but you must be one retarded piece of fuck to 1) stereotype an entire race as socially awkward losers with only numbers to offer and 2) assume that said “numbers” are insignificant.

While grades and SAT scores aren’t everything, they show colleges how someone has performed relative to their peers at school and at the national level. You say that you performed well academically at school; are you saying that you would have been as qualified to tackle an Ivy League education as a student without your presumably above-average “numbers?”

Your comments almost make me reconsider affirmative action. I can’t think of reasons why you would have been accepted to an Ivy League institution without it.

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Your comments almost make me reconsider affirmative action. I can’t think of reasons why you would have been accepted to an Ivy League institution without it.

#37 Comment By p09 On January 14, 2009 @ 8:10 pm

Really, I think the truth of the matter is that the whole college admissions process is so incredibly corrupt that there’s no way to fix it.

I was a really good student in high school, so I was always a credible candidate for the Ivy League, but I’m not going to lie, the fact that I went to a New England prep school didn’t hurt my chances. My college guidance counselor had maybe 15 students to deal with, and her full time job was getting us into college. I went to talk to her every single week and worked on my essays and my apps with her. The college placement office had meetings every year to help teachers learn how to write good recommendations, and I’ve never been able to shake the feeling that there was a good deal of conspiring among the different college guidance people and admissions officers to make sure that the class as a whole got into the best schools possible.
This was a completely unfair advantage that I had over my friends who went to public school. My best friend, whose middle school credentials were very similar to my own, met with her college guidance person once and was only allowed to apply to seven schools by her school.

I know other people who had the same sort of support that I did, and that really helped them when playing schools against each other for financial aid or when they were trying to get off the waiting list at school X.

Is it harder for a smart Asian kid to get into an Ivy than it is for a smart black kid? Probably. I would assume that that’s generally the case. But it’s also generally harder for a black or hispanic kid to get to the point where he or she is at the level of the multitude of well-prepared Asians (and note, that I said GENERALLY, there are of course rich black kids whose parents are Ivy alumni and Latin American gentry who get the affirmative action boost too), not because blacks and hispanics are any dumber, but because there are more cultural barriers. Fifty years ago blacks still couldn’t go to decent schools in some part of the US—that’s the sort of obstacle that just doesn’t go away over night with good wishes.

The whole thing is just rotten, through and through. In any case, studies have been done that going to an Ivy League school doesn’t really boost your standard of living that much, unless you’re from a non-Asian minority. And there are worse things that could happen to you than not getting into an Ivy.

Almost everyone I know at Princeton is massively stressed, over worked, and under rested anyway.

If you do want to have a discussion on merit and meritocracy however, it might interest you to read <a href="http://books.google.com/books?id=cwk0dIbV2HMC&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+rise+of+the+meritocracy" title="Michael Young’s The Rise of the Meritocracy">. It’s where the word meritocracy was coined, and it was done so in an ironic fashion.

College admissions is horrible. But it could be worse.

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College admissions is horrible. But it could be worse.

**#39 Comment** By Y11 On January 14, 2009 @ 8:35 pm

What H12 said. Also, Maureen, we love you.

**#40 Comment** By Y11 On January 14, 2009 @ 4:35 pm

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**#41 Comment** By princeton09 On January 14, 2009 @ 10:16 pm

p09, do you have the references for the studies on how going to an Ivy League doesn’t really boost your standard of living that much?

**#42 Comment** By princeton09 On January 14, 2009 @ 6:16 pm

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**#43 Comment** By to P09 On January 14, 2009 @ 10:32 pm

What you say isn’t true- because it is easier for rich WASPs at new england prep schools to be "prepare" to apply and go to ivy league schools, they are less likely to get into one since all their classmates are just as prepared, and it is well-established that ivies look very closely and how many students they take from each high school. case in point: assuming they are the same race, a valedictorian at a poor, largely-minority, inner-city public school is tenfold more likely to get into harvard than the valedictorian of st. john’s– even though the valedictorian of st. john’s probably has more APs, higher SATs, and better recommendations.

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It’s actually become advantageous (in terms of ivy admissions) to go to bad public schools in poor or unpopulated areas of the country.

#45 Comment By being pc ain’t bad On January 15, 2009 @ 12:11 am

Since when did trashing political correctness evolve from an angry reaction of anti-intellectual America to an ideal of authenticity among the intellectual elite? The point of being pc is not to avoid the truth. If that’s what you’re doing you should learn to articulate yourself better. Part of being pc is recognizing that other people may disagree and that doesn’t mean they’re idiots. It is also about realizing the effect your words can have. Frankly, I am feeling increasingly uncomfortable with the latent bitterness against black people in the ivy league. It is not our fault if affirmative action hurt you. Most of the people complaining were never actually affected by it and suffer from an inflated sense of entitlement. I am neither defending nor supporting affirmative action. It simply irritates me when people use it as an excuse to portray minorities in the Ivy League as undeserving or dumb. If you are going to attack affirmative action, attack the practice, not the people affected by it. Also explain why you are singling out affirmative action rather than other discriminations based on geography, school, athletics, etc.

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#47 Comment By harvard ’11, asian On January 15, 2009 @ 1:42 am

Thank you for posting this, Maureen, and especially for noting that it’s not worth it, simply not worth it, to fudge your race and try to assume another identity just to get into college.

I proudly mentioned my Chinese heritage (I’m not half-anything), on more than one occasion, but shied clear of mentioning affirmative action. I listed among my numerous activities both the stereotypical (piano, math, technology) and the atypical (newspaper, debate, fencing, poetry). I wrote my essay in a lyrical style more evocative of that stereotype of the silly white female English major than a nerdy Chinese girl. I was lucky; the “atypical” Asian is exactly who I am.

The system is absolutely and horribly corrupt, both materially and morally. Affirmative action sets up horrible incentive structures — and yet it’s necessary. Anti-Asian prejudice, which keeps us out of important jobs (isn’t the ultimate point employment, anyway?) if not name-brand colleges, continues to be pushed aside because we Asians have an ethic of forbearance (malignated as “docility”), instead of
a culture of assertiveness (maligned as "grievance"). But the state of race in affirmative action is just a reflection of the state of race in America.

#48 Comment By harvard ‘11, asian On January 14, 2009 @ 9:42 pm

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#49 Comment By p’11 On January 15, 2009 @ 2:57 am

>>Ideas for next week:
>>Admissions Essays

Good idea. I would love to see some ridiculous college essays on IvyGate.

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#51 Comment By jzb551 On January 15, 2009 @ 3:07 am

sad how asians are ‘screwed’
50 years ago most countries in asia were categorized as ‘third world’
they face(d) racial discrimination
but the admissions screw them and their parents for working hard and caring about education

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#53 Comment By @ being pc ain't bad On January 15, 2009 @ 7:03 am

I’m offended that you suggest people who complain about affirmative action suffer from an inflated sense of entitlement. Can’t you just be more understanding of these people?
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#55 Comment By y12 On January 17, 2009 @ 6:24 pm

Jesus. This blog is disgusting.

#56 Comment By y12 On January 17, 2009 @ 2:24 pm

Jesus. This blog is disgusting.

#57 Comment By azn at pton ’12 On January 18, 2009 @ 6:52 am

Okay Asians, trust me on this one. Marking anything remotely related to PRE-MED on your application is the kiss of death! It's also a social handicap once you're here. Sure I want to be a doctor just like EVERY other Asian here, but if someone asks I lie and say "politics".

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#59 Comment By anon On January 20, 2009 @ 9:20 pm

You know soledad o'brian is going to have her toe-head kids apply as "black"

... by the way, no one is going to mention SO'B's current newsworthy item of trying to evict her neighbor because of their dog?

http://dlisted.com/node/30254

I was hoping for an ivy gate spin on it

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#61 Comment By HF On February 23, 2009 @ 7:56 pm

Any suggestion on how to play hardball against schools? If gay couples and Dalai Lama can cause so much problems for authorities, Asians should be able to cause enough problem for schools.
#62 Comment By HF On February 23, 2009 @ 3:56 pm

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#63 Comment By Unbelievable On February 26, 2009 @ 5:26 pm

@Metropolitan
Sense of entitlement? You’ve got to be kidding me right? Isn’t that just the pot calling the kettle black? How dare we “uppity” Asians complain about unfair treatment! YOU SHOULD SHUT THE FUCK UP YOU RACIST IGNORANT MOTHERFUCKER.

#64 Comment By Unbelievable On February 26, 2009 @ 1:26 pm

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#65 Comment By HandsomeDan On April 28, 2009 @ 11:30 pm

Im 15 i want to go to Yale a couple of my family members attended there and still keep in contact with some of the professors. I really dream of going to Yale, but my grades aren’t perfect, kind of the opposite. I really need advice on how to get in Yale.

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#67 Comment By Anonymous On May 2, 2009 @ 8:51 pm

You can't get into an ivy league college if you’re Asian? Then explain the student body percentage of Asians at these schools...

Harvard: 19% Asian/Pacific Islander
Princeton: 17% Asian/Pacific Islander
Yale: 14% Asian/Pacific Islander

(www.collegeboard.com)
They’re definitely not “screwed.”

#68 Comment By Anonymous On May 2, 2009 @ 4:51 pm

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**#69 Comment** By Anonymous On May 2, 2009 @ 8:54 pm

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**#71 Comment** By anon On May 30, 2009 @ 5:48 am

@Metropolitan

you are an ignorant piece of shit and the definition of a politically correct douchebag. first you talk about how people are biased against you because you are a nonasian minority that got in because of affirmative action and then you categorize an entire race of people as socially awkward loser. fuck you you hypocritical cunt

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**#73 Comment** By CU10 On June 1, 2009 @ 2:17 pm

This is one of the most entertaining articles I've read recently. And everyone is getting worked up because there is a grain of truth to all the points. Hats off to Maureen, you atypical half-asian gal. You make me proud.

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#75 Comment By comrade_khan80 On June 10, 2009 @ 11:36 pm

Hey- After reading this article, I could see that being Asian isn’t exactly a plus. I am technically “Asian,” but really I’m a Pakistani-Canadian in America, living in the whitest state (Maine). My parents grew up during the Indo-Pakistani Wars + the Pakistani Civil War, so they lived in bomb shelters (I’m not exaggerating). And on top of that, I’m a Muslim... So, does the whole anti-Asian thing apply to me? Or do you think the people in the Admissions Office would exempt me from this rule?

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#77 Comment By @comrade On June 14, 2009 @ 9:58 am

Usually, Southwest Asians are considered white, rather than Asian.

#78 Comment By @comrade On June 14, 2009 @ 5:58 am

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#79 Comment By Anonymous On June 16, 2009 @ 12:03 pm

I’m 15 and I am already thinking about what University I would like to go to. Yale would be awesome, but I think that I am aiming to high. I live in Sydney, so I should probably be thinking about going to a school in Australia.

#80 Comment By Anonymous On June 16, 2009 @ 8:03 am

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#81 Comment By Joe On June 25, 2009 @ 2:20 am

Being a white male, I don’t care much about affirmative action. I graduated from MIT (elec engg comp. sc.) and had a full ride there. I think the whole Ivy thing is overrated. Schools such as MIT are quite good. On a different issue, I am not in favor of just allowing anyone to attend a university in the united states (in terms of international students) Half these international students (specially Chinese) are probably going to be recruited by the PRC for spying on the US later, so we need to be doing some serious background checks on such internationals. No offense, but if you want to study in America, you have to be pro-America, not spying for China. Anyone who thinks this situation isn’t true: http://www.heritage.org/press/commentary/ed053105c.cfm

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#83 Comment By Army v.s. Navy On June 30, 2009 @ 7:10 pm

Im a son of a west point graduate and to be honest, the affirmative action thing does help but my father agrees to just say your black even if your not its against the law to ask proof of your race. He also did it. So either way black or white use whats given to your to your advantage. At the academies I know U.S.N.A. does it; they fast-track blacks to the top of the list.

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#85 Comment By Neil On July 4, 2009 @ 11:41 pm

Does the whole Asian thing apply to South Asians? I’m a junior in high school and 100% Indian.

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#87 Comment By Lea On July 16, 2009 @ 8:11 pm

This blog is hugely entertaining and somewhat (dare I say it) informative. I am 16 years old and just starting the daunting process of applying to college and despite my family’s consistent involvement in Ivy schools, I dread rejection more than anything. This blog provided a pleasant, satirical take on the nightmare I have to deal with for the next six months. And as for the informative part, at my point in the process it is obviously too late for me to gain any more credentials then I already have however the comments on this blog give a truly insightful glance at what the world thinks of college. Mainly I get that most people see admissions officers as ringmasters but these comments also have helped me develop my own opinions further.

However, Maureen, I must disagree with you on one point- the alumni interviews. It is true that most alumni that volunteer their time to listen to over-achievers blab about their limitless accomplishments actually enjoy it but it does not mean they do not have varying levels of approval. Surely, they have heard the same merit stories over and over however they do relish the occasionally refreshing, truly exceptional individual that graces their office. My dad, for example, assumed the role as an alumnus interviewer for Harvard and the single applicant he still remembers was an 18 year old young man who, instead of spending his time at countless leadership clubs, spent his days as a member of a ski patrol on the local mountain. My father was engaged, he felt this applicant was capable of thriving at Harvard, and my dad wrote a giant “ADMIT HIM” on the interview document. Needless to say, he was accepted.

My point being: an alumni interview is not nothing. If you make a good impression and truly strike them as an engaging young adult then you may end up attending the school of your dreams and enticing the memories of an old alumni for years to come.
Good luck to all! We surely need it.

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#89 Comment By dara On July 28, 2009 @ 12:26 am

Interesting. Our children are white with 1/16 Cherokee in which we have no written documentation. How might you suggest to approach this with admissions?

#90 Comment By dara On July 27, 2009 @ 8:26 pm

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#91 Comment By John On July 31, 2009 @ 12:08 am

Yeah it’s hard for people who are white or Asian but I believe there is a way around that. The key is to be the anti-stereotype, specifically for Asians. I’m Asian and everybody assumed I was unathletic, good at math, science…well you know the stereotype. There’s a cool blog posting about being the anti-stereotype. http://www.gettingintoschool.org/?p=30. It really helped me stand out and not look like all the other asians in the mix.

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Yeah it’s hard for people who are white or Asian but I believe there is a way around that. The key is to be the anti-stereotype, specifically for Asians. I’m Asian and everybody assumed I was unathletic, good at math, science…well you know the stereotype. There’s a cool blog posting about being the anti-stereotype. http://www.gettingintoschool.org/?p=30. It really helped me stand out and not look like all the other asians in the mix.
#93 Comment By tom On September 19, 2009 @ 2:31 pm

i am a non asian minority. affirmative action is the best thing that has ever happened to me because now i get to go on to ivy league colleges while mr whitey and his chinese counter part are completely at a disadvantage in admissions. being black and poor with at least decent grades almost guarantees enrollment at your dream university.

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#95 Comment By justakid On October 16, 2009 @ 1:22 am

Interesting stuff here. Just to throw in my take on how skewed ivy admissions can be, I was amazed at how much difference being a recruited football player makes. I’m white (just for the record), high GPA, lots of APs, way-too-low-for-Ivies SATs (about 1800), rank about 12% = nothing that would get me noticed or accepted by any Ivies. Add in good football skills and wow 7 of 8 Ivies recruited me, calling, writing, convincing me why they’re a great school. After I picked one, I had shortened app, hand delivered to admissions (in August! before senior year of high school). By mid sept, officially admitted, and had letter from financial aid covering everything, no loans (need based). On the theory that sometimes the luck falls for you and sometimes against you, I’m going with it and feeling very lucky! I’ll give it all for that football team, and hopefully can cut it in the classes. Moral: running and jumping beat SATs for Ivy admissions.

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#97 Comment By Friend of Negros On October 20, 2009 @ 2:02 am

Metropolitan sounds like the typical affirmative action nigger who thinks the whole world is out to get him- get over yourself darkie, and don’t choke on your fried chicken.

Blacks are a riot. They are the most pampered, spoiled class of degenerates in the known universe, and yet they have the audacity to cry “discrimination” and “hypocrite” and then proceed to call an entire race “socially awkward losers”.

Of course porch monkeys will love affirmative action like they love waddymellon and gangsta rap- it’s the epitome of hypocrisy.

It’s time to stop lionizing these horrifically uneducated, unqualified and underperforming chimps from Africa. We should start sending them deodorant and condoms for their AIDS and that you-can’t-quite-put-your-finger-on-it ghetto stench.
That will help them far more than a few points on de’ ES-AY-TEE n’ sheeit.

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Yep I said it. Fed up with you cross-eyed syphilitic gorillas crapping on ”Asians”. You are constantly on the prowl for ”easy targets” like elderly women or minorities that are small in numbers.

Here’s some news, fish lips, picking on Jews, gays, ”Asians” or whatever victim-of-the-week will NOT ingratiate you to your white masters. So like I told Miss Jones of the Tsunami Song, just stop. Just stop your ridiculous, whiny, sanctimonious posts about how your 400 years of cotton picking blah blah blah.

Take your banana and go home for fucks sake. Play some basketball. Get yo’ Aunt Jemina and Afro-momma to make you some sweetbread. Go snort some crack up your very wide nostrils. Wear your pants around your ankles and swagger. Beat up a white kid.

Do what niggas do, yo, and don’t hurt yo’ head bout dis firm’tive akshun n’ SHEEIT

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#101 Comment By faryal On November 8, 2009 @ 2:28 pm
this post sucks like hell
Maureen O'Connor whoever this idiot is has no life and has to revert to stereotyping Asians. Let me kindly inform you one thing. Asians are much more of a "breath of fresh air" and "interesting" than you think. I was wrong when i clicked on this post and thought it could actually be of help. U suck

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#103 Comment By in shock On November 15, 2009 @ 7:35 am
It’s shocking that people actually waste time getting upset about these posts. As upsetting as the truth may be its still the truth. Affirmative action does exist whether you are for it or against it.

To Friend of Negros:
You are a very typical Asian. Narrow minded and defensive. What are you? Chinese? As sorry as I am to be part of this stereotyping I find it necessary to state that you follow the typical Chinese pattern of behaviour. You strive to make excuses for yourself by blaming everybody else for your own mistakes. You get defensive and because of your culture of censorship and simple mindedness you don’t see the bigger picture. My oh my look what Mao has done to you.

On affirmative action… getting into an Ivy League school is difficult. And as seemingly unfair as it may seem I agree that it is somewhat necessary.

Asians- you guys are diligent, hardworking and you make excellent grades. All the power to you! Of course there are those who are much, much more diverse and interesting than that. UNFORTUNATELY no matter how unfair it is people, especially Americans, will always stereotype you and too them you’ll just be the typical bookworm nerd. Prove them wrong! Maybe that stereotype actually has basis in fact. If you are Asian everyone expects you have good grades and to be good at violin and aspire to be a doctor. To be exceptional you have to prove that you are more than your good grades and music skills. BE EXCEPTIONAL

I truly am shocked! I had every intention of pursuing ivy league but this post has changed my mind. Maybe I should start looking into Cambridge and Oxford.

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#105 Comment By you go girlfriend On November 15, 2009 @ 1:23 pm

In shock:

You go girlfriend

#106 Comment By you go girlfriend On November 15, 2009 @ 9:23 am

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#107 Comment By Columbia12 On November 16, 2009 @ 3:46 am

LOL @inshock – if you want racial diversity, welcoming athmospheres and a liberal attitude from people, DO NOT go to Oxbridge. :D

#108 Comment By Columbia12 On November 15, 2009 @ 11:46 pm

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#109 Comment By admitted On November 18, 2009 @ 4:35 pm

I just wanted to say thanks for affirmative action, you struggled to maintain a 4.0 average went to the best private schools and the bam nothing nada I took your spot. I love affirmation it rocks.
I hope it was your spot that I took Friend of Negros. I didn’t even want to go to a ivy league. haha

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#111 Comment By Grace On December 16, 2009 @ 1:30 am

Metropolitan Says:
January 14th, 2009 at 1:25 am
"I just don't understand why people complain about affirmative action as if something is being taken away from them. I understand that we all have our expectations given our credentials and we live in a meritocratic society, but the fact is: NO ONE IS GUARANTEED ADMISSION BASED ON GPAs and TEST SCORES. I know it seems rational from the standpoint of an Asian student with a 3.9 and a 2370 on
the SATs to wonder why he was denied admission when a non-Asian minority with less impressive credentials was admitted, but it’s ridiculous to feel so entitled that you complain that someone’s taken something from you when they’re a part of the same process. The fact is, even if Asians think they’re being denied admission when they would otherwise get in, it’s not fair for non-Asian minorities to be labeled as making it harder for Asians. It was the admissions committee that denied you, not the peers in your applicant pool and private universities, such as those in the Ivy League, can exercise their prerogative and interpret affirmative action in what they feel is their best interest. Getting into college is NOT about test scores and GPAs. I’m a non-Asian minority who did well in high school and was probably 20% and I’m thriving at my Ivy. So, here is my takeaway: SHUT THE FUCK UP already about being disadvantaged by affirmative action. Maybe the reason you weren’t admitted is because the other “less-qualified” student has the potential to be the next Barack Obama while your bookworm, awkward ass is only impressive in numbers and not in person. I’m sick of people undervaluing the worth of minority students in elite universities because, for some reason, people think that a group’s lower numbers, on average, translates to lesser academic success. People need to stop being bitter and realize that high school grades and SAT scores don’t mean shit when you consider the big picture, which is what college is about.”

Meredith,
This is single-handedly the most profound statement ever made regarding admissions to ivys.
P.S. I’m Asian and I totally agree with what you’re saying.

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#113 Comment By para On March 14, 2010 @ 3:43 am

I thought it would be more advantageous to get accepted to an Ivy university if one is from a low-income family. Does being wealthy really matter for a prestigious Ivy university? I’m Persian and I’m so confused about what to put for my race. Definitely, I don’t like to choose white. Any idea about persians?
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I don’t think of it like “black kids are crowding out Asian kids” though. First, it’s unfair to lump together the case of the “affirmative action is required” and the case of “I seriously worked my butt off to try to impress and be qualified for these Ivies, I just happen to be a non-Asian minority.” Seriously, it’s not as though they’re randomly picking non-Asian minorities off the streets. Plus, furthermore, it’s probably Asian kids who are crowding out Asian kids. It’s pretty much the college admissions office’s fault for just using affirmative action.

Metropolitan, maybe they picked the next Obama who ends India-Pakistan and Israel-pretty-much-all-Middle-Eastern-countries-other-than-Egypt conflicts to get into the Ivy by denying someone who literally only had SAT scores to show off, and maybe your entrance into whichever Ivy you went to caused that Asian kid to run off to M.I.T. and maybe cure cancer, but I know that you sure as hell aren’t the next Obama. And when you say “I’m sick of people undervaluing the worth of minority students in elite universities” you seem to be unaware that the word “minority” would include Asians. I’m so racially offended by your comments I don’t really know what to say from here. I’m truly doubting the efficacy of college interviews at “Weeding out total psychos” or at least complete dicks. All I can say is get off your racist ass, at least before you make fun of an Asian guy for being “nerdy, bookwormish, awkward” while there is a (insert whatever ethnicity you would like here) guy (or girl) well trained in martial arts, and very pissed off by your bigotry...

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By the way, kudos to H12.
bookwormish, awkward‖ while there is a (insert whatever ethnicity you would like here) guy (or girl) well trained in martial arts, and very pissed off by your bigotry...

**#117 Comment** By Rita On May 15, 2010 @ 3:26 am

No, because when people imagine Asians, they imagine Chinese or Japanese people. Nobody really recognizes Indians as Asians.

**#118 Comment** By Fuck IVY On May 22, 2010 @ 12:08 am

no one here would ever get in to Ivy- because of this stupid comments..........n e way ....why so buzz for Ivy—- I study in Manchester, i guess its better than n e Ivy.......

**#119 Comment** By Gina On May 28, 2010 @ 3:45 am

Nothing you wrote makes any sense. You wrote, "high school grades and SAT scores don't mean s***". But you got into Ivy because of your grades and SATs. So it must have been a mistake that your school admitted you. I guess when someone is bitter that she got into a school despite being less qualified has to rationalize it somehow. I feel sorry for you.

**#120 Comment** By lolbuttslol On June 12, 2010 @ 9:43 pm

Actually, yeah. There are plenty of rumbugasdf

**#121 Comment** By Marie 1709 On June 14, 2010 @ 3:45 pm

brilliant post. I find it very informative and will definately keep these things in mind. On question, what if your half portuguese and indian ?

**#122 Comment** By Yervand On June 27, 2010 @ 10:29 pm

Wow this is one of the worst posts I have ever been doomed to read. Highly irrelevant and misleading along with pathetic self-contained opinionated biases. Whoever the author of this is, I have one thing to say to you. Please do not humiliate yourself any further by your asinine difference of opinion.

**#123 Comment** By Naija On July 1, 2010 @ 6:45 pm

Gooness! All this hatred for a group of people?

**#124 Comment** By A+ On July 7, 2010 @ 5:27 pm

This is such a stupid post.................most of this is just useless. I can't believe I thought this would help me in any sort of way.................and Asians are NOT dull and boring, and they definitely have a life. Whoever wrote this article should really get a life, and should stop making stuff up and discriminating people!

**#125 Comment** By 1980sdevotee On July 8, 2010 @ 12:39 pm

Hilarious comments! Post sucked.

**#126 Comment** By Asian On July 8, 2010 @ 1:57 pm
Indians have their own sub-continent. You guys are happy where you guys are, and calling Indians Asian is politically incorrect, although I think it is technically a reasonable idea.

#127 Comment By Asian On July 8, 2010 @ 2:02 pm

They are not skewed in that they are looking for talented and constantly-motivated kids, but it is generally known that they avoid accepting stereotypical Asians who only have perfect SAT scores without personalities. Face it! A vast majority of Asians are quiet bookworms, and for those who are not, congrats! You guys are outliers.

#128 Comment By Mary On July 17, 2010 @ 6:28 am

Omg I was thinking about that, I'm not Asian or any of that but wouldn't Cambridge and Oxford be harder and more expensive to get into. I'm only a junior in high school and I just trying to see where I might go.

#129 Comment By Mary On July 17, 2010 @ 6:41 am

Wow people on here are kinda racist. How useless to the world they are. It's a pity.

#130 Comment By Btl Incirkus On July 21, 2010 @ 12:08 pm

OMFG!!! This site sucks I can't believe I spent time reading this shit. The writer is an ignorant fuck!!

#131 Comment By Fuck you On July 21, 2010 @ 12:16 pm

As ugly as fuck.

#132 Comment By @comrade On July 21, 2010 @ 6:28 pm

Usually, Southwest Asians are considered white, rather than Asian.

#133 Comment By Terrible article On July 22, 2010 @ 4:02 am

Wow this article is HORRIBLE.. I google searched "how to get into an Ivy" and this is what I get? This is terribly offensive.

"Seriously, it's not as though they're randomly picking non-Asian minorities off the streets. Plus, furthermore, it's probably Asian kids who are crowding out Asian kids."

Exxxxactly. Im, African American / second generation Jamaican American, and I think first and foremost people need to realize this. To be honest I think the whole "recognized minority (non Asian) will always get the leg up in the end" thing is a ploy to create animosity between different groups(even more counterproductive minority groups)... At the end of the day colleges look for diversity regardless of whether they participate in affirmative action or not... Personally I think most of the people who have a problem with affirmative action never took the time to research what it was. I have... I've never ONCE seen the word quota come up... I've seen PREFERENCE... And I've learned about the statistical wonders it did for woman, non Christian foreigners, and minorities (including Asians[they are minorities in case people didn't know]). I'm not against it, but I wouldn't fight to keep it going either, because all it does is give SOME white people and other groups, including the middle class, some other excuse not to fess up on inequalities and to be able to attribute a minority's success to the fact that he's a minority. Currently college educated hispanics & blacks have a higher unemployment rate than college educated whites. Where the fuck is affirmative action? That's why I
feel like its not worth the fuss and aggravation. Its not even helping out educated minorities, those with higher socioeconomic status. In fact their rate is close to the unemployment rate for non college educated whites. Which negates the education minorities striven so hard to get. Which goes to show which group is actually recognized and non recognized/ advantage or disadvantaged...<~ You see you can believe what I just wrote or not. Essentially that's what people say when they say being a minority is a get into Ivy League free card. No, being rich and powerful is (George W. bush for example). People need to accept the fact that life is hard regardless. We're Americans and blessed for it, but nobody gets handouts regardless of which race or ethnic group you're from. Some need to say have it a little less worst...The "affirmative action/preference" to me lies in the eyes of those in charge of admissions...this article clearly admits their own personal bias..."another dull asian"...wow. I went to one of the best, prestigious high schools in my city and I have several distinguished peers that applied to Harvard and got rejected fast as hell in an hand basket... alot of universities dont participate in affirmative action...but if a black or hispanic was to get into one (a prestigious one)...it HAS to be affirmative action...NO they were distinguish and capable... DEAL WITH IT..Saying certain groups can ONLY advance with leg ups is RACIST...I know for a fact that even without affirmative action people will probably still use that as a defense mechanism..."damn, he got into Harvard and I didn't...well...well...well ITS ALL BECAUSE HES BLACK "<~no kid, its because he's smarter than you. Accept it. Move on and strive to be as intelligent as him. And one day you're dedication might be rewarded.

#134 Comment By No2CronyCapitalism On July 29, 2010 @ 1:18 am

Any category for Middle-East? Seems to be generally where it's at geographically.

#135 Comment By No2CronyCapitalism On July 29, 2010 @ 1:30 am

Skulls and Boneses code SHHHH!!!!

#136 Comment By Anon On August 1, 2010 @ 8:33 pm

I don't understand why people fight on a blog post.

#137 Comment By Gonzo On August 5, 2010 @ 1:46 am

I agree with Reason "excellent post". Explains how some Ivy alums boned the economy so badly, too.

#138 Comment By nburg On August 9, 2010 @ 11:15 pm

This is the worst post about harvard I have ever seen. I want to get into Harvard because I want to be a politician that is absolutely driven by the appropriate citizens. I'm seriously ready to be the politician everyone has been waiting for. One that doesn't make any decisions until there is a national vote. That's true democracy.

#139 Comment By ivyOVERRATED On August 11, 2010 @ 6:28 pm

whether you wana believe it or not its true. college admission officers would rather a minority thats not asian because statistics show that these are the ones with the highest SAT scores yet when you meet them theires nothing special just someone whos focused on school and doesn't have a life. white kids are also given the disadvantage. although the author of this post used some language that i wouldnt agree with i wouldnt say that hes racist because demographics definitely has a huge part of it.

ex: the white female salutatorian in my school with 102% average (AP Classes), a bunch of extracurriculars and the most well-rounded student was denied admission to Vassar College. Yet a black male student of the same school with a 93% average, lower SAT scores and less ecs than the salutatorian gained admission to Vassar. Note: had an EFC of 0. therefore it has been proven true. not
only did i see it with my own eyes but if you talk to your college counselor they will tell you the same thing. there are more females in college than guys therefore there is a bonus for men right there because colleges are dying for men in their school because less of them are motivated to go to college than females. more men = more funding. next, the majority race in colleges is white. plain and simple (i know its harsh) but they already have alot white people they would love some more diversity. however asians in college will not give you as much funding than being hispanic, lack, indian will.

affirmative action was made to knock down the barriers existing in order to allow those in the past history to become successful. simply put it, its like giving blacks their 40 acres and a mule that was owed to them, and apologizing to the indians for their harsh treatment, and trying to imperialize parts of spain. its apologizing to the races for giving them a hard time in the past.

p.s. asians are better off elaborating on their race when it comes to college applications. when college admission officers see asian the first thing they think of is chinese. however NEVER LIE! they will find out if you say your black & ur not people actually get their admission withdrawn for lying. ex: check asian and it the other box if your japanese, philipino or indian write that.

#140 Comment By ivyOVERRATED On August 11, 2010 @ 6:33 pm

TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION: you put other and elaborate. dont put white because your not caucasian your persian and that will help you.

Second, it goes both ways if your from a low income family it can help you. OR Hurt you depending on the school and how much finaid they have available. if your rich it also helps b/c that could mean that the school can get funding through your tuition. OR Hurt you b/c some people would invest money into that school if they have too many rich kids.

EVERYTHING IS MONEY RELATED!

#141 Comment By Ivy On August 13, 2010 @ 5:55 am

Although this post did show to be invalid in many ways, saying that "no one here would ever get into ivy" is an invalid, rude, and incredibly stupid comment. "Manchester is better than any Ivy"- according to whom? YOU? The person who cannot even spell out the words 'any'? I'd like to here the opinion of an actual intellectual rather than you, who seems to not be taking their so-called Manchester education seriously.

#142 Comment By Qwertyui On August 20, 2010 @ 3:28 am

thank u very much

#143 Comment By rogermoore On August 20, 2010 @ 8:58 am

that it what they thought during the French Revolution...... and look what happened there. Direct Democracy does work for most issues, hence there are constitutions which create laws by which government must abide by to govern.

#144 Comment By Guest On September 4, 2010 @ 7:32 pm

Please stop lumping an entire race of people together. Simple mindedness, really? Fuck you.

#145 Comment By Sam On October 2, 2010 @ 12:57 am
Wow you seriously think Obama has ended all the conflicts in southwest Asia? You are defending all of Asia except the part Americans call the "middle east"? Maybe you should stop expressing your ignorance in the guise of progressiveness with such arrogance.

#146 Comment By Dinklesabb5 On October 4, 2010 @ 8:41 am
except we’re a republic...

#147 Comment By Guest On October 8, 2010 @ 2:57 am
I find it quite funny how many people take this perhaps a little too seriously.

#148 Comment By Lexi90a On October 10, 2010 @ 4:23 am
Good luck in life, asshole — you’re really going to need it.

#149 Comment By Tim On October 13, 2010 @ 11:28 pm
the united states isnt a democracy

#150 Comment By Elifer On October 22, 2010 @ 2:01 am
are you asian? of course theyre not boring. its just that if you dont know them, one kim is the same as another.

Article printed from IvyGate: http://www.ivygateblog.com