

## SENIOR QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help you prepare how you will present yourself to colleges (e.g., through personal statements and interviews), while giving your college counselor the means to get to know you better. The information you provide will help your counselor write effective letters of recommendation.

Please answer the following questions and return your responses with the rest of your paperwork. Please take your time in answering the questions. ***Seniors are asked to give their best attempt to answers questions 1-18 with thoughtful and complete responses.*** Questions 19-25 are optional, but they can be additionally helpful in revealing your distinguishing beliefs, personal experiences, and characteristics.

***Give specific examples whenever possible.*** This questionnaire is very important and will remain confidential, but elements may be used in letters of recommendation to colleges. ***If you do not want information disclosed in that manner, please clearly indicate.***

Please type your answers on separate sheets. Keep a copy for your files. It will help you in filling out applications. Thank you, Mr. Pelletier.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Possible Major \_\_\_\_\_ Possible Career \_\_\_\_\_

1. As you think about your grades and courses over the past three years, please describe any events or situations that may account for changes in your grades (upward or downward). Are there any outside circumstances that may have interfered with your academic performance?
2. What are your favorite subjects? What do you like about them? What are your least favorite subjects? What do you dislike about them?
3. What do you choose to learn when you can learn on your own? What topics have you chosen for research papers, lab reports, or school activities? Give some examples of projects that have been particularly memorable. Have you completed any projects of an academic nature outside of your classes and/or have you taken any community college coursework? If you've taken outside courses, what have you studied? Did you enjoy these courses?
4. What are some school reading assignments that you have particularly enjoyed? Did you expect to enjoy them? Do you read outside of school assignments? What are some things that you read regularly and/or like to read on your own. Give names of specific books, newspapers, magazines, websites, etc., that you read frequently or have enjoyed reading in the past.

5. Creative side – In which of the following have you been involved during your high school years: music, drama, fine arts, creative writing, poetry, verbal skills, debate, etc.? Which would you consider strengths? Please indicate any creative summer programs or activities in which you have been involved.

6. Leadership skills – In a community service project, work environment, group activity, or athletic team, what strengths did you bring to the group? Give some examples of any leadership positions you have held. Can you think of specific situations where you felt you acted strongly as a leader? Were there specific situations that taught you how to become a better leader?

7. Do you have any hobbies or special interests (e.g., auto mechanics, carpentry, computers, scouting, clubs, organizations, etc.)? Is there a particular field where your knowledge surpasses the average person's? What do you like to do and what are you good at? How long have you been doing this?

8. Have you had a paying job? For how long did you have this job and how many hours did you work per week? What were some of the principal responsibilities you had? What did you learn from your work?

9. How have you completed your community service hours? What are some of the primary community service and volunteer projects you have done (including those not connected with St. Francis High School)? What drew you to these projects? What did you learn from them? Have you exceeded the number of required hours (how many hours)?

10. Have you played any sports? Any special achievements? How have you managed to balance the demands of athletics and academics? How have athletics shaped you as a person and student?

11. Have you had involvement with your church or parish? How is your involvement meaningful to you?

12. Share information about your family. Tell about your cultural background and size. Who lives in the home with you? What are some of your specific family responsibilities (babysitting younger siblings, tending to grandparents, etc.)? Discuss your family's interests, activities, triumphs, and problems. How has your family life had an impact (negative or positive) on your development?

13. Do you believe you had to deal with any life challenges? What are these challenges and how have you dealt with them? What have you learned from them?

14. What do you think makes you unique? Describe something about you that might not be obvious to people when they first meet you.

15. What are you most proud of? Why? Describe a moment in which you felt successful?

16. How have you grown during your years at St. Francis?
17. Describe a mistake in your past that has become an invaluable lesson.
18. Why do you want to go to college and what satisfaction and/or frustrations do you expect to encounter?

### **OPTIONAL QUESTIONS**

19. How would your teachers describe you?
20. What do your friends like best about you? What does it take to be a good friend?
21. If you could change one thing in the world today, what would it be and why?
22. If you had a year to go anywhere and do whatever you wanted, how would you spend that year?
23. Who is your hero or heroine? Why?
24. What is your favorite saying or quote? Why?
25. Please feel free to provide any additional information that you were not able to sufficiently address through the preceding questions.

**Senior Parent Questionnaire**  
(Brag Sheet)

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents, you can assist your son's counselor in writing a letter of recommendation for him that truly reflects his uniqueness. Parents frequently provide useful information that their sons have overlooked.

Please feel free to write or type your comments on another sheet if you wish. If there is additional information about your son that you would like to provide, please feel free to add it. All information is confidential, but elements may be used in letters of recommendation to colleges. ***If you do not want information disclosed in that manner, please clearly indicate.*** This is your time to brag about the wonderful child you have raised. **Please be specific and give examples.** Thank you, Daniel Pelletier.

1. What do you consider to be the outstanding accomplishments of your son during the past three or four years? Feel free to discuss any achievements, including academics, volunteer work, special talents, employment, church involvement, extracurricular activities, sports, outside organizations, and leadership.
  
2. How has your son shown the most development and growth during high school?
  
3. What do you consider to be his most outstanding personality/character traits? Explain.
  
4. What is the greatest joy he has brought to you? What makes you proud? What have you learned from your son?
  
5. How has your son contributed to your family? How do you spend time together?
  
6. Are there any unusual or personal circumstances that have affected your son's educational or personal experience?

# RESUME

*This is just a sample, a rough draft to give you some ideas. Please feel free to create your own resume style. This is your chance to tell all about yourself and your various contributions and activities during your high school years. Be sure to include activities at school, in your community, your church, etc. If the activity is not self-explanatory, then be sure to give a brief explanation. Be sure to include the number of years, hours etc. Try and keep it to one page..*

**NAME**  
**STREET ADDRESS**  
**CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE**  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER**  
**E-MAIL ADDRESS**

## **HONORS AND AWARDS - Leadership**

Eagle Scout Award for Boy Scouts of America  
California Scholarship Federation, 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Community Service Award – St. Philip’s Teen Group  
Poetry Published in “Young Poets Speak Out”  
Kairos Retreat Leader – grade 12  
National Honor Society, 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> grades

## **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Theater: supporting role, Romeo and Juliet, 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
Violin – playing for ten years, Member of the Los Angeles Junior Symphony  
St. Francis Choir, 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades – performed 8 times last year at local functions  
KNIT – assistant director - St. Francis television station productions  
Campus Ministry LIFE team member, 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Editor Yearbook 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
Latin Club, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM – over 200 hours total**

Mission to Mexico- bring food and supplies to the poor in Tijuana, Mexico  
Huntington Hospital volunteer, 60 hours service, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
St. Philip’s Parish Confirmation Leader - 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
Pasadena Union Station Food distribution volunteer, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
Camp Counselor- YMCA Camp Fox- 2 weeks, summer of 2004

## **SPORTS**

Football- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, Varsity Team Captain  
Volleyball- and San Gabriel Club Volleyball- playing for 7 years

## **CHURCH**

Eucharistic Minister, St. Philip’s Church 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Youth group member, 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

## **RECREATIONAL SPORTS - Hobbies**

Water and snow skiing, basketball, Frisbee, mountain biking, roller blading, kayaking

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Von’s Supermarket- stock person, bagger- summer 2005  
Coldwell Banker Real Estate-, Pasadena Ca – assisted with Open Houses –summer 2003  
Summer of 2000- I took care of two children for a single mother for two weeks, 6 hours per day.

**TRAVEL-** traveled to Spain with my Spanish teacher and students from St. Francis

## PERSONAL STATEMENT/ESSAY

This personal statement/essay helps us become acquainted with you in ways different from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It will demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. We are looking for an essay that will help us know you better as a person and as a student. Essays are a very important part of the college application portfolio, and this exercise will help you begin the process of presenting yourself in writing to colleges.

Please type an essay (250-1,000 words) on a topic of your choice or on one of the options listed below.

1. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
2. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
3. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
4. Describe a character in fiction, an historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
5. A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
6. Topic of your choice.
7. Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community, or school — and tell how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.
8. Tell about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution, or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

(Prompts 1-6 are taken from the Common Application, [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org), while prompts 7-8 are taken from the application for the University of California.)

## TENTATIVE COLLEGE LIST

Name\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_

CUMULATIVE GPA\_\_\_\_\_

SAT: SCORES: CR\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ WR\_\_\_\_\_ Essay\_\_\_\_\_ (Date Taken:\_\_\_\_\_)

ACT SCORES: Composite\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ E\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ Essay\_\_\_\_\_ (Date Taken:\_\_\_\_\_)

You have all been spending the last several months researching colleges. Please list the colleges that you are currently thinking of applying to. It is understood that your list will change over the next few months. You will not be expected to finalize your list until the late fall.

After the name of each college or university, please write whether you think the college is a **FOUNDATION (F), TARGET (T), or REACH (R).**

A **Foundation** is a college that you would like to attend, and you are highly confident that you would be accepted at that college because (1) your grades and SAT/ACT scores exceed the college's averages and (2) the college accepts a significant majority of its applicants. A **Target** is a college that you believe would likely accept you because your grades/test scores approximate the college's averages. A **Reach** is a college that you are not as confident about getting into because the college's average grades/test scores exceed yours and/or the college accepts a low percentage (e.g., less than 50%) of those who apply.

Valuable information about the admissions statistics of colleges' freshman classes can be found on the College Board's website, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**AGREEMENT FOR RECORDS/RECOMMENDATION LETTERS RELEASE**

For: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

The signatures below are authorization for St. Francis High School to send official high school transcripts, released SAT Reasoning/Subject and/or ACT scores, and letters of evaluation or recommendation to colleges, financial aid offices, athletic departments, student aid and scholarship agencies, or other offices in the college admission process.

It is understood that recommendations written by St. Francis High School's teachers and college counselors in support of applications are written with the assumption that (1) they are confidential communications, to be read only by the admissions officers at the colleges and universities designated by the student, and that (2) we will not request access to them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date