

Figure 14.2 Junior-year college information night agenda.

Junior-Year College Information Night Agenda

1. Welcome.
2. Introduction.
 - Explain that parents and students are in a process.
 - Briefly discuss the success of the current senior class.
 - Assure them that they will leave with a packet of material to help them in this process; they don't have to memorize it all that night.
 - Provide an overview of the information to be presented.
 - Briefly introduce the CommonApp and the MyCoalitionApp.
3. Use an ice breaker for students and their parents/guardians to generate a brief discussion. One successful method is to have parents and students separately fill out brief questionnaires about college. Include questions about preferred distance from home, dorm life – coed vs. single sex – and frequency of home visits. It never fails to make people laugh at the different responses and ease the tense anxiety in the room.
4. Now, the essentials of the college admissions process; give a brief synopsis of the following:
 - What colleges are looking for in candidates
 - The quality of the high school transcripts
 - Standardized test scores
 - Extracurricular activities/sports/work experience/community service
 - What others say about the candidate – the counselor letter and teacher recommendations
5. How to get started in the process
 - Initial list of schools that may be good matches at first individual meeting with parents and student
 - Importance of research and use of technology
 - College visits
 - Interviewing
 - Preparation and taking of ACT and/or SAT
 - Asking teachers for recommendations

- Explain the role of the school's online platform (Naviance, MaiaLearning or Scoir if applicable) and the Common Application and the Coalition for College Websites.
 - Announce the Financial Aid Workshop date
6. Spend the summer productively
- Community service
 - Work experience
 - Special enrichment programs