

English Transcript for *Eight Pieces & Two Questions*

So let's start talking about your application. When we say, application, we're referring to your complete application. And a complete application includes eight primary pieces. The application form, your academic documents, which you'll see referred to as your transcripts. Test scores, which include SAT, ACT, SAT subject tests, as well as English language testing, TOEFL or IELTS. Your essay is the fourth part, letters of recommendation the fifth, school forms the sixth, activities list the seventh. And in number eight, we put in a big category for other, because as you'll see, different universities will have different requirements. Some schools may require an interview. If you're applying to an art based major, you may have to submit a portfolio. A talent based major, you may need to go through an audition. Don't worry. We're gonna talk about all eight of these pieces in depth later in the course. So, what do universities do with these eight pieces? They use these pieces to answer two primary questions when evaluating you for admission. The first question, is will this student be academically successful? The second question is, is this student a good fit for our university? Let's talk about the first question. It's a logical question. The main goal of going to university is to get an education. So they need to look closely at your academic performance to try to understand how strong of a student you will be, academically, educationally, how prepared are you. From the list of eight pieces, there are certain pieces that they will look at to answer this question. Primarily, your academic documents, your test scores, and your school forms. Let's start by discussing the most important piece of your application. Which is hands down your academic documents. Your academic documents are the most important piece, because depending on your educational system, it represents three or four years of daily academic work throughout your secondary school. Universities are gonna look at this academic document in many ways. How much did you challenge yourself? How well did you perform over time? And you have to remember that academic success predicts academic success. Test scores, I know you hate test scores, I hate test scores, lots of people hate test scores. But they are very, very important to your application and admissions decision. Why? Because it's the same test for everyone. The same test that you take in your home country. is the same test that I would take here in the United States. And taking the same test allows for a fair comparison for all students. In addition, it helps universities gauge certain necessary academic skills. Finally, the one that you may not be as familiar with, school forms. School forms help the admission office know about your school. Which is going to be very important. They'll be able to measure the quality of the education, and even more importantly they'll see, have you taken full advantage of the opportunities that have been presented to you. Now, they take these three pieces and they use them to answer this question. And, believe it or not, it's a simple yes or no answer. Yes, you're academically qualified, or no you're not. It's also a fairly easy question to answer, and the answer is largely yes. Universities, even highly selective universities, will tell you that most students are academically qualified to attend, but most students don't get accepted. Why? Because there's a second question that we have to examine.