**Page 1 (Front Cover)**



[www.solomonadmissions.com](http://www.solomonadmissions.com)

1.646.470.1096

One-on-One College Admissions Counseling and Live Online Courses

Most applicants blend into the crowd. We'll help you stand out and get in. Over 90% of our clients get into one of their top 3 choice colleges.

**2014 Average Acceptance Rates**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | University | **Solomon Admissions** |
| Columbia University | 6.9% | **28.2%** |
| Cornell University | 14.0% | **40.9%** |
| Duke University | 10.7% | **34.3%** |
| Harvard University | 5.9% | **18.2%** |
| MIT | 7.7% | **21.1%** |
| NYU | 33.6% | **65.8%** |
| Princeton University | 7.3% | **25.8%** |
| Stanford University | 5.1% | **23.1%** |
| UC Berkeley | 17.3% | **35.1%** |
| UCLA | 18.2% | **40.4%** |
| University of Chicago | 8.4% | **39.0%** |
| University of Pennsylvania | 9.9% | **36.5%** |
| USC | 17.8% | **55.6%** |
| Yale University | 6.3% | **23.5%** |

**Page 2**

**Your College Application:**

**Academic and Personal Profile Components**

**Improvable at Application Time**

**Our Services:**

**Personal Statement** - The personal statement is the most important part of the college application and yet many applicants today continue to make mistakes in tone, content, or even topic. The personal statement is not like a high school essay, it needs to stand out. As part of our service, we will help you through multiple rounds of edits to craft a compelling personal statement, which will showcase your hobbies, interests, and passions in a concise and compelling manner.

**Supplemental Essays** - The biggest mistake that applicants today make is that they fail to customize each supplemental essay to each individual college. Instead, they often submit a generic supplemental essay, which fails to deliver a clear message that the student wants to attend this particular university and no other. We have customized countless supplemental essays for various colleges, and we will show you how to do the same.

**Particular College Preferences** - Every college looks for different things in its applicants, and to those who don't know each school's particular preferences, college application results often seem random and unpredictable. They're nothing of the kind. Unfortunately, it’s no easy task to find out the particular preferences of each school. What you need is insider information and we are happy to provide it. Based on our many years of experience, we know what distinguishes the acceptances from the borderline rejections.

**Strategic Positioning** - The ideal college application needs to tell a story and to give the reader a compelling and unique narrative. Instead, what admissions boards often see is a mishmash of contradicting information. As part of strategic positioning, we conduct a comprehensive analysis of the applicant, the schools to be applied to, and of the various strengths and weaknesses of the applicant. We then advise on positioning of the application, so as to make sure each applicant stands out from the crowd.

**Right Recommenders and Right Recommendations** - Most top students have surprisingly bland recommendation letters; we don’t let our clients get away with anything less than glowing letters. We advise you on which teachers would be best positioned to write your recommendation letters and how they would be best able to speak to your specific academic and personal strengths. We also help you prepare a cover letter, resume and portfolio of work from a recommender’s class to present at a personal meeting to maximize your recommendation letter’s impact on readers.

**Mock Interviews, Financial Aid and the Waitlist** - We prepare you for both on-campus and alumni interviews by teaching you how to control what is written on the interview evaluation by guiding the content and flow of the interview itself. We also give you the inside details on which schools will take financial need into consideration when deciding who to accept and who to reject. In regards to waitlists, we develop plans with our clients to aggressively take action to get them off waitlists and into the schools of their choice. This usually involves a multi-pronged approach combining a letter of interest, re-positioning financial aid need and reaching out to faculty connections in their specific department of study.​

**Page 3**

**Our Team:**

Founders:

Vitaly Borishan

Georgetown Law

Dan Lee

Georgetown Law

Admissions Consultants:

Beth G.

Harvard University

Moon L.

Yale University

Julie K.

Brown University

Marilyn M.

Stanford University

Allie M.

Cornell University

Anna R.

Harvard University

Hannah R.

Yale University

Cameron S.

Princeton University

Naomi T.

Dartmouth College

Helen Z.

Harvard University

\*Information presented is a condensed version of the online personal profiles featured on our site. To see the full online personal profiles of our consultants, go to <http://www.solomonadmissions.com/#!people/cjg9>.

**Client Placement**

Harvard University

Stanford University

MIT

Duke University

Cornell University

University of California, Berkeley

University of Chicago

NYU

Amherst College

USC

University of California, Los Angeles

University of Pennsylvania

Columbia University

Georgetown University

**Testimonials**

"I’m now a premed student at Stanford University and my parents approached Dan in my junior year of high school. At the time, I was very stressed out over the whole process and Dan was able to eliminate a lot of the stress with his advice and guidance. It wasn’t easy applying to college, but the assistance on especially the supplemental essays was invaluable, as they helped show my passion and intellectual vitality. I highly recommend this service."

**Admitted to Stanford University**

"My son is an aspiring computer engineer and we reached out to Vitaly when my son was still in 10th grade. Vitaly was very professional, knowledgeable and completely accessible throughout the process. He was also very helpful as he arranged for my son to work on a computer science research project with a local professor. My son is now a first-year student at MIT and for that I am very thankful."

**Admitted to MIT**

**Page 4 (Back Cover)**

**Student Essay Before and After Multiple Rounds of Solomon Admissions Edits**

**Stanford students possess an intellectual vitality. Reflect on an idea or experience that has been important to your intellectual development. (100 to 250 words)**

**​**

**FIRST DRAFT BY STUDENT:**

While taking a course on music history, my teacher explained to me the fascinating relationship between history and music. He started out by talking about the famous Russian composer, Dmitri Shostakovich. We listened to Shostakovich’s String Quartet No. 8, which opens with three crashing chords. The teacher explained to us that the three chords represented the KGB knocking three times on one’s door in the middle of the night, and conveyed the composer’s anti-Stalinist political beliefs and sense of oppression. For me, the chords expressed humanity’s fear of losing basic freedoms and human rights, something that no person on this planet should have to endure. As a result, I began reading additional books on Shostakovich, which revealed to me the heartache and turmoil of Russian history in the 1900’s. This experience strengthened my resolve to become a scholar of Russian history.

In addition, my interest in the intellectual aspects of music amplified my understanding of mathematics. I began associating the pitch of certain musical notes on the piano with mathematical key frequencies. When I played a scale on the piano, I would associate numbers with each note.

Music also impacted my understanding of literature. While watching “Apocalypse Now” after reading “Heart of Darkness,” I became obsessed with Richard Wagner’s “Ride of the Valkyries.” I became aware of how Wagner’s music was played as anti-Semitic propaganda in Nazi Germany during a class discussion.

I hope to pursue my profound passion and interest in music and other academic subjects at Stanford.

**OVERALL COMMENTS:**

Right idea (music as the lens to frame other intellectual pursuits), but poor execution. The essay does not leave a lasting impression on the reader. The presentation is dry instead of being interesting and entertaining. The essay feels cliché and contrived throughout with broad, sweeping and empty generalizations. The opening does not hook the reader, and the ending does not leave the reader wanting more. The essay must tell a personal story, one that is deeply compelling and one that is told through a gripping narrative.

**FINAL DRAFT AFTER CONSULTANT EDITS/REVISIONS:**

“Thump, thump, thump.” The bows crash like tsunami waves against the strings of the cello and violin.

            “Knock, knock, knock. That’s the KGB knocking thrice on your door - they want to ask a few questions.”

            When my music teacher explained to me that Dmitri Shostakovich’s String Quartets conveyed the composer’s anti-Stalinist political beliefs and sense of oppression, I was floored. How could a series of three dissonant chords convey the fear of being taken away in the middle of the night under a totalitarian regime? Intrigued, I read books about Shostakovich - and became versed in twentieth century Russian history.

            It didn’t stop there. What other stories could music reveal? What else was I missing out on?

Soon, my knowledge of each subject I tackled deepened through music. When studying the Fibonacci sequence in mathematics, I no longer saw simply a series of numbers. Instead, I saw the key frequencies of musical notes associated with each number in the Fibonacci series. Conversely, when playing an A major scale on the piano, I began seeing the Fibonacci sequence. When my English teacher screened “Apocalypse Now” after we read “Heart of Darkness,” I became fixated with Richard Wagner’s “Ride of the Valkyries” from the helicopter scene. I learned how his music was employed as anti-Semitic propaganda in Nazi Germany and became proficient in how fascism spread throughout Europe.

Music has become the score for me to interpret – and to become passionate about – other intellectual pursuits.

**OVERALL COMMENTS:**

The execution of this version is superior. Not only does the essay address an intriguing intellectual topic, but it does so in an entertaining fashion that keeps the reader tuned in. The narrative is compelling and is not cliché and contrived like the prior version. The opening hooks the reader, and the ending leaves the reader wanting more.