2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session Description

This session aims to equip learners with crucial knowledge and strategies for successfully applying to colleges. Participants will gain insights into various aspects of the admissions process, including understanding application requirements, writing effective personal statements, preparing for standardized tests, and selecting schools that align with their academic and personal goals. The session is ideal for prospective college students, offering them the tools and confidence needed to embark on their higher education journey.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1: Understand the components of a college application and the importance of each element.

Outcome 2: Craft compelling personal statements and essays.

Outcome 3: Develop a preparation plan for standardized tests (SAT, ACT).

Outcome 4: Identify criteria for selecting colleges that match their academic and personal goals.

Outcome 5: Navigate the college application timeline and manage deadlines effectively.

Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

[The theme of the 2024 NOAC is Seek New Heights, emphasizing the drive for excellence that characterizes the OA and our daily lives. How will your session incorporate this theme?]

[Theme Connection Description]

Facility and Material Needs

[Please put all material and facility needs in this section. We recommend completing this portion last after the rest of the lesson plan is completed. **The more specific you are with your material and facility requests, the better we can accommodate!**]

Facility Needs

Is this session remote delegate-compatible? (ie. can the material be engagingly taught via live stream)   No

Does this session need audio/video (AV) capabilities? (ie. projector)   Yes

Are there any other specific facility needs for this session? (ie. movable chairs, panel-style seating, etc.)

Material Needs

[Please put "NOAC Training Committee" under "Source" if you need a material and cannot source it yourself - we will try to source it for you. Please note that we would strongly prefer training materials to be in a digital format and would advise against flipcharts and other physical materials. If you need microphones, extension cords, etc., please also specify those needs here.]

Material	Quantity	Source
Computer	1	
Projector	1	
Remote to advance slides	1	
Microphone if in larger room	1	

Session Preparation Steps

[Please list all steps you or another trainer would need to take to be prepared to teach this session. For example, if the trainer needs to add personal experiences, print handouts, or prepare items for a game, those should be listed here. **The goal is for someone to be able to read this syllabus and understand how to teach your session in the future!**]

Step 1: Research the application process for the timeframe you are presenting

Step 2: Would help to have recent experience with the college application process

Additional Staff Members

[If you are having additional trainers assist you with your session, please fill out their contact information below. Please note that due to the conference sell-out, we are limited in our ability to register additional staff members on the training committee. We recommend that your additional trainers come from contingents or other staff members that can break from their duties to facilitate the session.]

Trainer Name	Email	Phone #
None		

Lesson Plan

[The main body of your presentation should be here. Remember to adjust the timing for each session as you add/edit topics. **Remember, be as specific as possible - the goal is for someone to be able to read this syllabus and understand how to facilitate your session in the future!**]

Helpful Templates:

> ### Activity
> Copy and paste this box wherever you have an activity in this session!
>
> **Materials Needed:** [materials]
> **Length of Activity:** # [min]
> **Activity Description:** [description]

> ### Trainer Action
> If at any point the trainer needs to complete an action (play a video clip, prompt questions, etc.) copy paste this box and edit this text to specify what!

Introduction   **2 minutes**
Slides [##]-[##]

- Understanding different types of colleges and universities
- Key components of a college application
- The importance of extracurricular activities and leadership roles

Topic 1: Understanding Application Requirements   **10 minutes**
Slides [##]-[##]

- Common Application vs. individual college applications
- Letters of recommendation: who to ask and how to ask
- Transcripts and GPA: what colleges are looking for

Topic 2: Writing Effective Personal Statements   **10 minutes**
Slides [##]-[##]

- Brainstorming and selecting essay topics
- Writing techniques for a compelling personal statement

- Common pitfalls to avoid in personal statements

Topic 3: Preparing for Standardized Tests   **10 minutes**
Slides [###]-[###]

- Differences between the SAT and ACT
- Study strategies and resources
- Tips for test day success

Topic 4: Selecting the Right Schools   **10 minutes**
Slides [###]-[###]

- Creating a balanced college list (safety, match, and reach schools)
- Using college visits and virtual tours effectively
- Understanding financial aid and scholarships

Topic 5: Application Timeline and Management
Slides [###]-[###]

- Creating an application timeline
- Managing deadlines and avoiding last-minute stress
- The importance of early action and early decision applications

Topic 6: Finalizing Applications
Slides [###]-[###]

- Reviewing and polishing your application
- Double-checking requirements and materials
- Submitting applications and next steps

Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge   **3 minutes**
Slides [###]-[###]

- Addressing participant questions and concerns
- Providing general admissions tips and recapping how to make your application stand out
- Tips for interviews and campus visits

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

[Please add all referenced sources or handouts that would be useful to share with session attendees.]

Resource	Link
Order of the Arrow, Mission & Purpose	Available online at: https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose