

Kushlis, Jennifer

From: KnowHow2GO [news@knowhow2go.org]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 2:30 PM
To: Kushlis, Jennifer
Subject: KnowHow2GO Updates for Mentors

KnowHow2GO | Insider

JULY 2008

Surfing College Sites

We've been talking lately about our virtual campus – [KnowHow2GO-U](#) – and the importance of [visiting real college campuses](#). But what if the students in your life don't have a chance to visit any this summer or in the near future? One of the best ways to get a feel for a college is to check out its Web site. Here are the [College Board's](#) five tips for making virtual visits worth students' while:

- **Get involved.** Music junkie? Really into politics? College clubs come in all shapes and sizes. Students should look for links like *Student Life* to see which ones they'd join.
- **Get a room.** Students' housing choices as freshmen might be limited, but many colleges offer language, sorority/fraternity and honors houses; and dorm rooms that look like apartments. Their best bet is to look for a *Housing* link under *Admissions* or *Prospective Students*.
- **Get help.** Colleges work hard to keep students on campus once they get there. They offer a wide range of support from drop-in writing assistance to peer tutoring. Find this information in a section called *Student Services*.
- **Go team!** Students can click on *Athletics* to look into intramural and recreational sports. Urge them to take a look at varsity rosters and stats. They could be watching these teams from the students' section some day!
- **Get cultured.** Click on *Events*, *Arts* or a similar link to learn about the school's concerts, film screenings, plays, lectures and other cultural events.



If the students in your life have trouble finding these links on a college Web site, refer them to the *Site Map*. And click [here](#) for more tips and links to specific college sites.

Food for Thought

While the students in your life are relaxing this summer, encourage them to think about...college application essays. They're not as scary as they sound! In fact, some common essays ask students to describe a life-altering experience or the person they most admire. These are topics students can start thinking about as early as middle school.

The "[Common App](#)" is an online application accepted by more than 300 colleges and universities. (Yes, this means students can fill out *one* application and send it to [multiple schools](#)!) Here are the six essays they asked students to choose from this year (250 words minimum):

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, a historical figure or a creative work (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.

Motivating the Unmotivated Student

Ofentimes, unmotivated students *do* want to succeed, but there's something holding them back. With patience, understanding and hard work, you can help the students in your life become college-ready. Here are the [College Board's](#) top three tips:

1. **Provide an encouraging environment.** If you show the students in your life that education is important and worthwhile, they will likely develop similar attitudes. Tell students not to be afraid of failure, as it's an inevitable part of the learning process.
2. **Be reasonable.** Set clear and fair standards for unacceptable behaviors and resulting consequences. For instance, a failing grade might result in the loss of a favorite privilege until the grade is raised.
3. **Build on strengths.** Look for areas where the students in your life excel – and focus on them. Translate students' success outside of the classroom to success inside the classroom. For example, a student who excels on the basketball court, in a team setting, might also do well in a peer study group.

[To unsubscribe from this email, please click here.](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

