

# Pack a Punch:

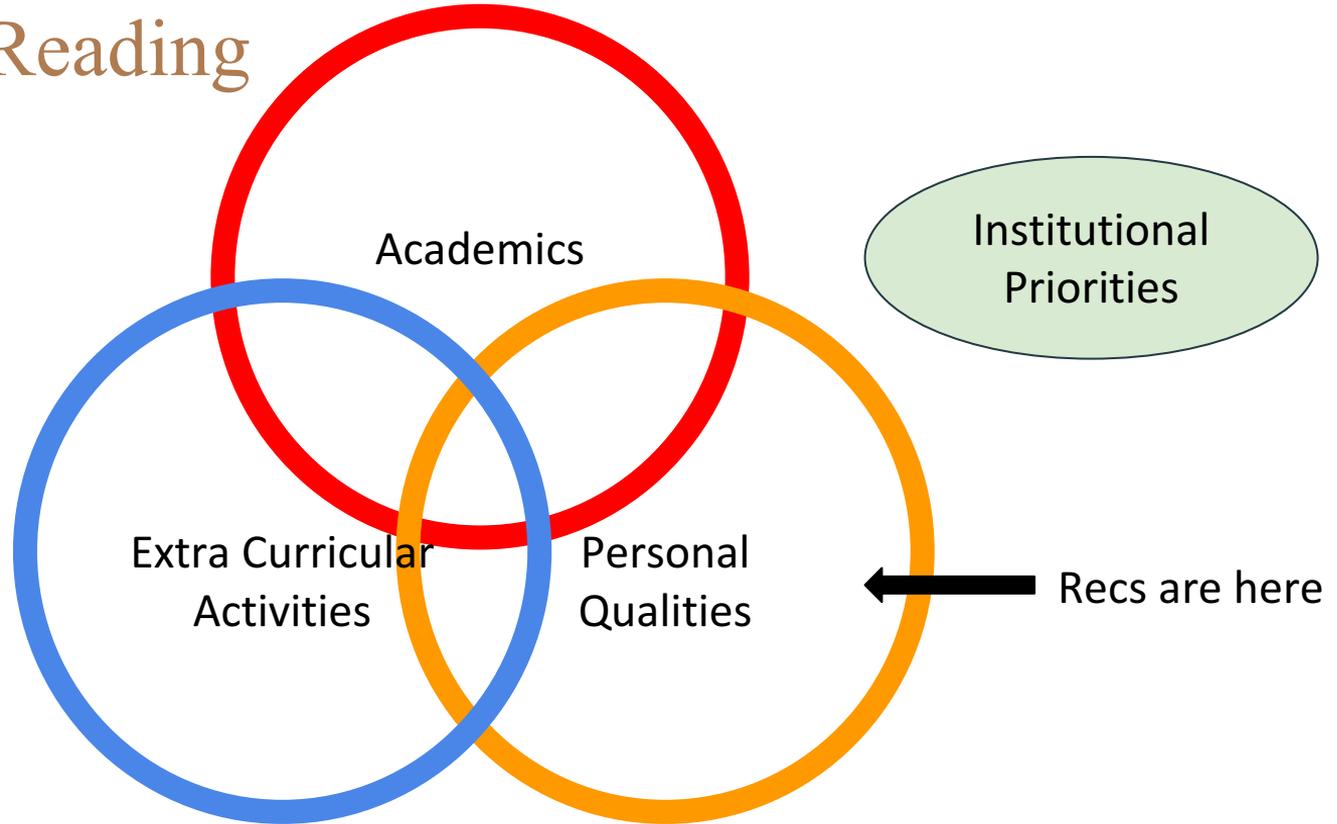
## Content Over Length in Recommendations

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# Holistic Reading



# Activity #1

***What adjectives come to mind when you see these students:***

- suburban white girl who likes to bake and is on the equestrian team...
- Asian male who likes math, is in the band, and isn't the leader of any group...
- Latina who speaks Spanish at home and leads an activist group on campus...
- Black male who is barely UC eligible and plays football...

# Activity #1

***What adjectives come to mind when you see these students:***

-suburban white girl who likes to bake and is on the equestrian team...

Sweet, nice, kind, sensitive, privileged...

-Asian male who likes math, is in the band, and isn't the leader of any group...

Quiet, hard-working, persistent, diligent, team player...

-Latina who speaks Spanish at home and leads an activist group on campus...

Go-getter, fiery, loud, under-represented, opinionated, confrontational...

-Black male who is barely UC eligible and plays football...**Let's be real, this was probably the hardest... would you spend the entire recommendation talking about the sport and not achievements in the classroom...**

## Role of Recommendations

- Counselor gives the overall image/role of the student in the school
- Teacher gives specific examples of classroom behavior and interactions with peers

## Admissions Readers Role

- The job of the admissions reader is to dissect who the student is on your school campus, including in the classroom, and what skills and personality that student will bring to the particular college campus

# Teacher Letter of Recommendation

- Formats

- Flow

- Do's and Don'ts

- Collecting information about the student

# Activity #2

# Unhelpful Recommendation

-Summary for the write up of the student:

*“English rec restates the resume. Doesn’t add anything new”*

*-OR- “Standardly supportive/mostly generic letter”*

# Helpful Recommendation

-Summary for the write up of the student:

*“English letter illustrates he has a good moral compass, handles himself maturely under pressure, is optimistic, and is eager to learn.”*

# Counselor Letter of Recommendation

- Formats

- Flow

- Do's and Don'ts

- Collecting information about the student

# Activity #3

# Guess the GPA outcomes

Student #1 has a GPA above 4.0

Student #2 has a GPA in the mid 3.0 range

Student #3 has a GPA below a 3.0

# Resources

## Handouts:

- Counselor and teacher examples to address areas of growth or challenges
- Teacher recommendation tips
- Counselor and teacher sample questions to help write a recommendation

## Websites:

<https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/journal-of-college-admission/toward-a-better-letter/>

<https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/journal-of-college-admission/recs-that-change-lives/>

**Do you have any suggestions for your peers?**

**Questions?**

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