

# Your Standout Factor

There are more than 26,000 high schools in the U.S. That means there are 26,000 football captains, 26,000 prom queens, 26,000 valedictorians and 26,000 yearbook editors. If you want to stand out to a college, you've got to really stand out.

There is a very powerful way to differentiate you from other students applying to college: Ensure you have a Standout Factor.

The most interesting Standout Factors are activities that are typically dominated by adults, or noteworthy tasks that no other high school student does. Either way, a Standout Factor will help you differentiate yourself from other applicants.

## How to Increase Your Standout Factor

It's simple. Do something that you wouldn't normally consider doing. Standout Factors are not run-of-the-mill activities. Participating on your school's yearbook staff, for example, is not a Standout Factor. In fact, every high school yearbook in the world is put together by students. It is a good learning experience, but it won't necessarily help you stand out.

Managing the yearbook staff will help you stand out because it shows leadership. But, taking it further will give you a true Standout Factor. Running a yearbook business will easily help you stand out from the crowd. Few high school students, if any, own yearbook production companies.

## How to tell if it's a Standout Factor

If other high school students do it, it's not a Standout Factor. Also, the more positive impact your standout activity has on others, the better.

## Examples of Standout Factors

- Restore antique instruments
- Hike the Appalachian Trail
- Discover and name a new comet
- Volunteer at a medical clinic in an African village
- Breed a special strain of flower and name it after your grandmother
- Make a movie and convince real theaters to show it
- Invent something
- Start a real business with customers and employees
- Help run a political campaign
- Become a TV or radio personality

### My Current Activities:

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### Possible Standout Factors:

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