

Is the College Admission Process Broken - A Chinese perspective

It's been quite a year!

Recent Headlines

- **What Students in China Have Taught Me About U.S. College Admissions**
 - The Atlantic, January 5, 2015
- **New cheating concerns raised about SAT being given in Asia on Jan. 24**
 - The Washington Post, January 21, 2015
- **Should the SAT Be Scrapped?**
 - Barron's, May 8, 2015
- **U.S. Schools Expelled 8,000 Chinese Students**
 - The Wall Street Journal, May 29, 2015
- **Family tells of empty promises by admissions consultant**
 - The Boston Globe, April 6, 2015
- **Proof of Cheating Casts Pall Over the SAT**
 - Barron's May 22, 2015
- **Is the Admission Process Broken?**
 - OACAC Blog, May 26 2015
- **To get into elite colleges, some advised to 'appear less Asian'**
 - Boston Globe, June 1, 2015
- **Cheating Concerns in Asia Cloud SAT Testing**
 - WSJ, June 8, 2015
- **Battle to Thwart SAT Cheating in Asia Continues**
 - WSJ, June 7, 2015
- **Harvard-Stanford admissions hoax becomes international scandal**
 - Washington Post June 19, 2015

Moving Forward

A Conversation on Both Sides of the Table

- Testing
 - TOEFL issues
 - SAT issues
- Education for money
 - Incentives are wrong
- Prestige
 - Land grab for prestige goes uncorrected
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The Goal: Create a system that doesn't punish the honest

- Transcripts can be forged
 - Even top schools adjust their transcripts
- Just need to cram for tests
- Everyone uses an agent
 - Conversation with Eddie West
- Problem is not “cultural”, it is that the US admission process has been superimposed upon a system that does not have checks and balances in place
 - High schools are new
 - Transcripts not sacrosanct
- US schools cannot on the one hand argue that their degree is valuable and then express disgust when Chinese students act as they do in a system that punishes the honest.

- The existence of cheating proves that cheating works.
 - Agents
 - Testing
 - Interviewing
 - Non-agents that over prep
- In China there is a certain amount of transparency
 - Everyone in China knows who in China got in to X university and which agent helped them
 - DIY applications are cited as experiences the force agent assistance
 - 100% of students use agents, 50% of the agents take over the complete application process

Acknowledgement

- Schools which use ethical means should receive some encouragement for doing the right thing
- Students are driven to use agents because of their success

Colleges

- College Admission offices
 - Send emails to all contacts to schools to see if there is a reply – the off season email
 - As a test for response
 - How many contacts do you have from a school?
 - Issues with internal email? Why gmail addresses?
 - Learn to trust the schools with counselor