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### **Scripted Interview**

**Interviewer:** Today we have two journalists who have written about issues that have recently caused quite some controversy. Here talking about they college ranking system is Reed Karaim who's a freelance writer in Tucson, Arizona. He has written reports for *The Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Smithsonian*, *American Scholar*, *USA Weekend* and other publications. We also have Maddie Solomon who's also a journalist and has written articles for *The Occidental* on various types of topics and she's here to talk about the college admission process.

**Reed Karaim:** Thanks for having me here to talk about this topic.

**Maddie Solomon:** Thanks as well for having me.

**Interviewer:** Well, thanks to both of you for coming, anyway I'm pretty sure both of you heard about the recent college bribery scandal. I would like to hear each of your opinions on this controversial event.

**Maddie Solomon:** I wrote an article about this topic on *The Occidental* once and it's selfishly disgusting how these parents are donated thousands amount of money in order for their children can attend elite colleges. The children of wealthy parents are taking seats that could be used for actually qualified students to attend the college.

**Reed Karaim:** You may think that the scandal only has to do with college admissions but it also affects the ranking system. Since elite colleges that have been caught accepting money from wealthy parents, these same colleges are the ones that have high rankings each year. I think their ranking could be affected.

**Interviewer:** Mr. Karaim, what inspired you to write about the college ranking system and its fairness?

**Reed Karaim:** I feel what inspired me to write about this certain topic was based on my experience when I was applying for college. The ranking system is ludicrous because it does not provide any information about the school besides graduation rate and retention rate, faculty resources, financial resources, student performance, and student resources. These rankings don't paint the full picture they only give what

**Interviewer:** And Ms. Solomon what's your opinion on the college admissions process?

**Maddie Solomon:** First of all, the whole admissions system is a failure. With the recent college bribery scandal, everyone can see how truly unfair the whole process really is. In fact, it's becoming more of a business than actually educate students.

**Interviewer:** Regarding each of your viewpoints on these systems would you both agree that wealth is a significant factor that affects both of these systems.

**Reed Karaim:** The college ranking system is very influenced by wealth. I do not know if you have noticed but the top ranking school seem to have more students with a higher socioeconomic status, which in return boosts up the colleges ranking. The two college systems correlate with each other, the more wealthy students accepted into colleges correspond with the colleges ranking.

**Maddie Solomon:** I'd have to agree with you Mr. Karaim, that indeed they correlate with each other. Colleges are given bias towards the wealthy however, not enough bias towards those who are qualified to attend.

**Interviewer:** Let's move onto the final question, this is for both of you. What should these systems do in order to be more "fair"?

**Maddie Solomon:** First of all, elite and IVY leakage colleges should accept more minorities and give them an opportunity for a better education. The admissions process is just numbers, GPA, SATs, ACTs, APs, and SAT subject tests is what colleges should focus on more when deciding whether or not accepting a student instead of their socioeconomic status however, colleges should not focus on it at the same time. These standardized tests forbid students to show their creativity, passion, true accomplishments, and potential. In order to make the college admissions fair colleges should not only look at test scores and grades but beyond such as access the students. Firstly admissions officers should their own instructions, then they should get to know better the student who's applying, and finally analyze the compatibility between the student and the institution. I think this is what takes in order to make the administration truly "fair"

**Reed Karaim:** The college ranking reports are very influential in the reputation of colleges and universities and play a significant role for students and parents in the early stage of the admission process. when these ratings are published you automatically know that elite universities such as Harvard, Princeton, and YALE, students might think that their school might have a good graduation rate, somewhat affordable tuition, good professors, and excellent programs when it comes to college rankings their school is either not on the list at all or is at the bottom of the list. Administrators and students criticism this ranking system yet many people these rankings

provide useful information for those who are in the admission process. But at the end these ranking will continue, personally there's not a way to make rankings "fair" because since it first began wealth has been a major contributor for these rankings.

**Interviewer:** Well, that's all the questions we have for today. Thank you both for having the time to answer my questions.

**Maddie Solomon:** Well on behalf of both of us we'd like to thank you for this interview. We had the opportunity to talk about topics that are important to us.

**Reed Karaim:** Couldn't agree more with that statement Ms. Solomon.

### References

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