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Research Proposal

When starting the college enrollment process, my school's guidance counselor told everyone to choose a college that is the best match for you. We were trusted in the sense of knowing what we wanted to study, what college we wanted to go to, and potentially the job we wanted to have in the future. An important piece of information that was provided early on in the application process was to not pick a school in which its tuition was too expensive, although we could still attend even if it was too expensive because there were various ways to pay the tuition. Our counselor never throughout the process mentioned any ivy league colleges, as if those were forbidden to even consider those colleges an option. In an advising meeting they gave us a paper which stated the top or best colleges in the country, the only problem was mostly ivy league and private colleges were listed and few CUNY colleges appeared.

The college admissions process and is questionable and unfair. The process is frustrating and long, however most don't question just exactly how the colleges they apply to are fair in deciding who attends. Recently the college bribery scandal shed some light on how wealthy parents pay millions of dollars in order to attend Ivy League or some of the county's top colleges. Some parents go to the extent of disowning their children in order to get more financial aid so they don't have to pay for college expenses. If this scandal hadn't become public no one would truly know exactly how corrupt the college admissions process is. So let me ask you this,

Do you know anyone from your high school graduating class who got accepted into an Ivy League or “top” college?

The college ranking system is just as questionable compared to the college ranking system. The rankings compare bachelor's degree granting universities across the U.S. on diverse factors of academic quality. Factors include: graduation and retention rates, graduation rate performance, faculty compensation, financial resources, and SAT/ACT scores. For example an ivy league would most likely rank first place on the list because more wealthy people are from the top 1 percent compared to a CUNY whose students are mostly middle class in other words the bottom 60 percent in society. This promotes a lot of economic inequality and diversity within the college. It also makes the wealth gap and education relatively more connected, if a student graduates from a top college somewhere in the country they will most likely have more opportunities to find a job and higher pay whereas another student graduates from a community college or CUNY who will have a short career will probably have trouble finding a job and will be earning less than the one who graduated from a top or prestigious college.

Just like how life is sometimes questionable and unfair, certain systems in our society are basically set up to fail. In this paper the two main topics discussed would be the college ranking system and the college admissions process. The purpose of this paper is to question, how fair is the college admissions process and the college ranking system? And who benefits from these systems?