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Parent Discussion Guide

In 500 Words or Less

In 500 Words or Less

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In 500 Words or Less

In 500 Words or Less

In 500 Words or Less

III. The Tension Caused by Parents

- a. What was driving the tension in the film?

[Note to facilitator: If answers vary, you may want to list responses on a white board and ask parents to identify the top three causes of tension.]

- b. Which of these causes of tension do you, as a parent, have some control over?
- c. How can you serve as a guide and source of support for your child without putting too much pressure on him or her?

[Counselor Tip: Instead of asking your child about college applications every time you see him or her, try setting aside a specific time each week to discuss his or her progress.]

IV. Adolescent Decision Making

Discuss the types of decisions the characters made

- a. Setting Priorities
 - i. What do you think of Leo giving up his passion – football – to allocate time for his SAT preparation course?
 - ii. If you think he should have continued to play, what advice would you have given him to help him manage his time and still feel prepared for the SAT?
 - iii. Are there activities your child should consider giving up to devote more time to visiting schools, preparing applications, etc.?
- b. College Visits and Research
 - i. Leo chose only to visit colleges when he was already admitted. What are the benefits of visiting college campuses earlier in the process?

[Note to facilitator: More visits give the applicant practice in looking at schools, even if they don't plan on applying to the schools they visit. More practice = better decisions. This is also an opportunity to provide tips on making college visits productive.]