

Hi There,

I've [put together this resource](#) for families about COVID-19 and how it will impact the journey to college.

The short answer is, we don't yet know exactly what will happen, but remember that this is affecting EVERYONE, including colleges and their admissions staff. Colleges won't hold against you anything that is out of your control, but they WILL hold you accountable for things that you CAN control.

Things you can control:

- How you use your time during this period
- The choices you make
- Your level of effort
- Your attitude

So, what to do?

1. Keep up with your studies. Grades may be more important than ever as standardized testing opportunities become less available. If you find online school challenging, connect with your friends, teachers, Mr. Farnum, and me (virtually of course) for support. [Book a meeting with me](#) if you have ANY questions about anything to do with your post-high school plans.
2. Practice for SAT/ACT: View this as bonus prep time! Use online resources to prepare, including Khan Academy. [Here is a link](#) to my list of recommended study guides. Take practice tests. My friend Phil McCaffrey is doing live online test prep tutoring via YouTube Monday through Thursday at 8:30 pm <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChxo45HRRYDz5x9EzG4d8dw/> Phil also has retired SAT & ACT tests available. Go to www.3RPrep.com and click Student Resources. If you watch [this video](#), he gives away the secret password to his bank of retired SAT & ACT exams (there are more ACT exams since it did not change and they still publish booklets of retired tests).
3. Find a project. Kids who replace their extracurricular activities with a Pandemic Project will stand out in the college admissions process. Here are some suggestions:
 - [Ivy League college courses you can take now for free](#)
 - Go to YouTube, type in "tutorial" or "how to" and learn how to do something
 - [Create a ZeeMee profile](#) to use in your college applications (some colleges ask for ZeeMee as an optional way to provide additional information)
 - Reread a favorite book(s) from your childhood
 - Find an Excel tutorial. Knowing advanced Excel functions (VLOOKUPS, Pivot tables) is a huge resume booster and no one learns them, for the most part, until they start work. You'll be way ahead of the game.
 - Learn something through online classes: [MOOCs from EdX](#), MIT Open Courseware, Saylor, Coursera, Open Culture, Outschool, and or get a Google Cloud certification in G Suite.
 - Find an online discussion group like Brave Writer, which has some cool movie discussion groups for high schoolers (though those aren't free)

- Read books (especially literature). It's good for your college applications and your brain!
- Watch Ted Talks.
- Watch films on the American Film Institute's Top 100 List (The Criterion Collection is available for streaming).
- Learn to code through Udacity.
- Take a [virtual museum tour](#).
- Develop fundamental life skills – cooking, cleaning, doing the laundry, financial literacy, sewing, ironing – all those things that you're going to learn in a crash course in your first year of college!
- Pick up old hobbies you haven't had time for since you started high school. Drawing, painting, or playing chess or Scrabble are great places to start.
- Begin a new hobby: grow a hydroponic vegetable garden, build an aquarium, organize your room like Marie Kondo, or develop an app.
- Write! Did you know that many of our world's greatest works came out of enforced "social distancing"? Look at Nicolò Machiavelli, Sir Isaac Newton, Dante Alighieri, Ernest Hemingway, Victor Hugo, Albert Einstein, and many, many more greats!
- Create a [YouTube](#) channel showcasing your hidden talent.
- Go for a walk in nature.
- Learn how to meditate.
- Build a Rube Goldberg Machine that opens the front gate for the postman.
- Watch a [Broadway play](#)
- Other good suggestions [Social distancing doesn't have to doom your weekends - CNN article](#)

Finally, if you have any questions and would like to meet, the link to book meetings (plus login access to your SCOIR user panel and much, much more) can be found here: <https://watsoncollegecounseling.com/walsh-student-resources> Please bookmark this page so you have ready access to all these resources!

You will find information about scholarships and financial aid on my website, too!

Thanks and stay healthy!
Dr. Watson