Five Things High Schools Seniors Should Avoid

1. Pretending to be someone you're not. Padding your resume with a million extracurriculars -- but nothing you are *truly* passionate about -- isn't going to help you find the college that is the perfect fit for you. Once you embrace who you are and what you love, you'll probably find that expressing yourself in your application will be much easier. This is also a good tip for college students applying for internships and employment.

2. Not being aware of your social media footprint. Take that extra two minutes and set your social media accounts to private until after the college application process is over. Do it now. Then read this piece on [what NOT to post to college Facebook pages](). Everyone, including high school and college students, need to be aware of their social media footprint. Get in the mindset that any potential employer will look at your Facebook page. Your spring break pictures are not going to help your application for college or employment.

3. Forgetting to proofread. You're filling out tons of apps -- we get it. But do not, under any circumstances, accidentally use the wrong school's name in an essay or application. It happens more often than you would think. Buddy up with a friend and proofread each other's applications. This is a good a good strategy throughout college and when you apply for a job.

4. Bombarding admissions staff with emails and phone calls. It's easy to forget that there are actual human beings on the other end of the phone and Internet when you have "urgent" questions about the admissions process. Keep in mind that the people who answer your phone calls are sometimes the same people who read your application. Don't be annoying. Don't panic. And always, always check the FAQ on the website before picking up the phone.

5. Leaving your personal statement for the last minute. Your college essay is arguably the most important part of your application because it gives you the chance to tell the admissions counselors something *real* about you. This is why it's often daunting to get started, but try to keep this in mind: the first draft you write will not be the one you end up submitting, and it won't be perfect. But you have to start somewhere, and the sooner you start jotting down ideas, the better. Internship and employment applications will often require a personal essay or statement. This is probably the most important material you will provide when trying to get that prized internship or job.