

# *Making the Most of Your Summer*

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# The College Application Wheel™

We use this framework to help students identify and develop their strengths and find their “angle”



*[ An angular student demonstrates depth or excellence in one or two areas on the wheel ]*

# How Does Summer Fit In?

Students can use their summer experience to strengthen any area of the Wheel



- Pursue an existing intellectual interest or explore a new interest
- Cultivate a special talent or athletic ability
- Expand role in community service or other leadership
- Bolster Academics/Test Scores
  - Address a deficit
  - Get ahead for next year
- Earn money
- Reconnect with friends and reenergize

# Pursue Intellectual Interests

You can dive deeper into an area of interest or explore something new

- **Academic:** Creative Writing @ Kenyon, Global Scholars @Yale, Language immersion programs
- **STEM:** Summer science research @ multiple universities, App development program @Brandeis, Game Design @ Carnegie Mellon, Nanotechnology program @ UCLA, Governor's School
- **GT Focused Summer Programs:** CTY, EPG@Stanford, TIP@Duke



# Pursue Intellectual Interests

You can test drive potential majors

- **Business:** Leadership in the Business World @ Wharton, BOSS @ Penn State, various programs @ Georgetown, Discovery Internship, summer job
- **Pre-Med:** Shadow a Physician (Trinitas), Medical Institute @ Georgetown, National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, Research @Rutgers NJMS
- **Engineering:** PAVE @Vandy, ECOES @ Stevens Institute, ESAP @ Penn, SEA @ Michigan
- **Design & Architecture:** WashU



# Cultivate Special Talents

You will learn from professionals/experts and make connections in your field

- **Music:** BU Tanglewood program, Eastern U.S. Music Camp, Composition workshop at Oberlin
- **Theater:** Cherubs @ Northwestern, Carnegie Mellon
- **Art:** U Michigan Portfolio, Carnegie Mellon Design, Parsons in Paris
- **Film:** NYU, USC, Emerson, Yale
- **Athletics:** Attend showcases and recruiting camps



# On-Campus Programs

There are many benefits to living on campus



- Demystifies the academic and residential university experience
- Time management
- Cooperative living experience
- Fields of study exploration
- Multi-cultural experience
- Demonstrated Interest

# On-Campus Programs

## Not all programs are equal

### Requires Separate Application/Highly Select

- Programs developed, staffed, and operated directly by the college
- Classes taught by college faculty, adjuncts
- Often feeder for top school: LBW @ Penn, Global Scholars @ Yale, Film program @ NYU or USC

### Requires Separate Application/Moderately Select

- Gives good sense of college life or potential field of interest
- Helps with writing the why academic interest essay
- Can help gain admission, but experience more important: Environmental Science @ Marist, Global Scholars @ American

### Not Select/Space and Facility Rentals

- Private organizations use college facilities
- Organizations develop and offer their own curriculum using their own faculty
- Explo, Summerfuel



# Experiential Programs

Can provide opportunities for **Community Service** and/or **Leadership** development

- **Cultural/Language Immersion:** Sol Abroad, EF Summer Camp, Overland, Where There Be Dragons, Putney
- **Teen Tours:** Rein tours, Rustic Pathways, BBYO Passport
- **Wilderness & Adventure:** Bold Earth, NOLS, Outward Bound
- **Community Service:** Overland, VISIONS Service Adventures, TCNJ Bonner Community Scholars

*But you don't need to go on a service trip in order to do service... There are lots of opportunities right in your own backyard!*

# Summer Programs

It is important to carefully evaluate a program before you commit

- Tour and visit if you can
- Talk with students (& parents) who have done the program—What was their experience?
- Attend a fair for face-to-face interactions with programs
- Ask questions

*How much supervision is there?*

*What is typical makeup of group e.g. gender/age?*

*What is background of instructors?*

*Can I speak with some former participants?*

# Work Experience

A summer job can be just as valuable or more so than programs or travel

- Any type of work/job has value
- Demonstrate the characteristics that schools are looking for
  - Commitment
  - Longevity
  - Hard work
  - Diligence
  - Leadership
  - Advancement
  - Accomplishment
  - Entrepreneurship
- If possible, explore your career interest



# Summer Experiences

Benefits – some less tangible but still valuable



***Create stories for college essays and interviews***

# **DO SOMETHING.**

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*You DO NOT have to spend your summer doing a program*



*A job or service at home can be just as important*



*Use your time in a productive way*



*Take advantage of the few opportunities of extended time where you can accomplish something or explore what you love*

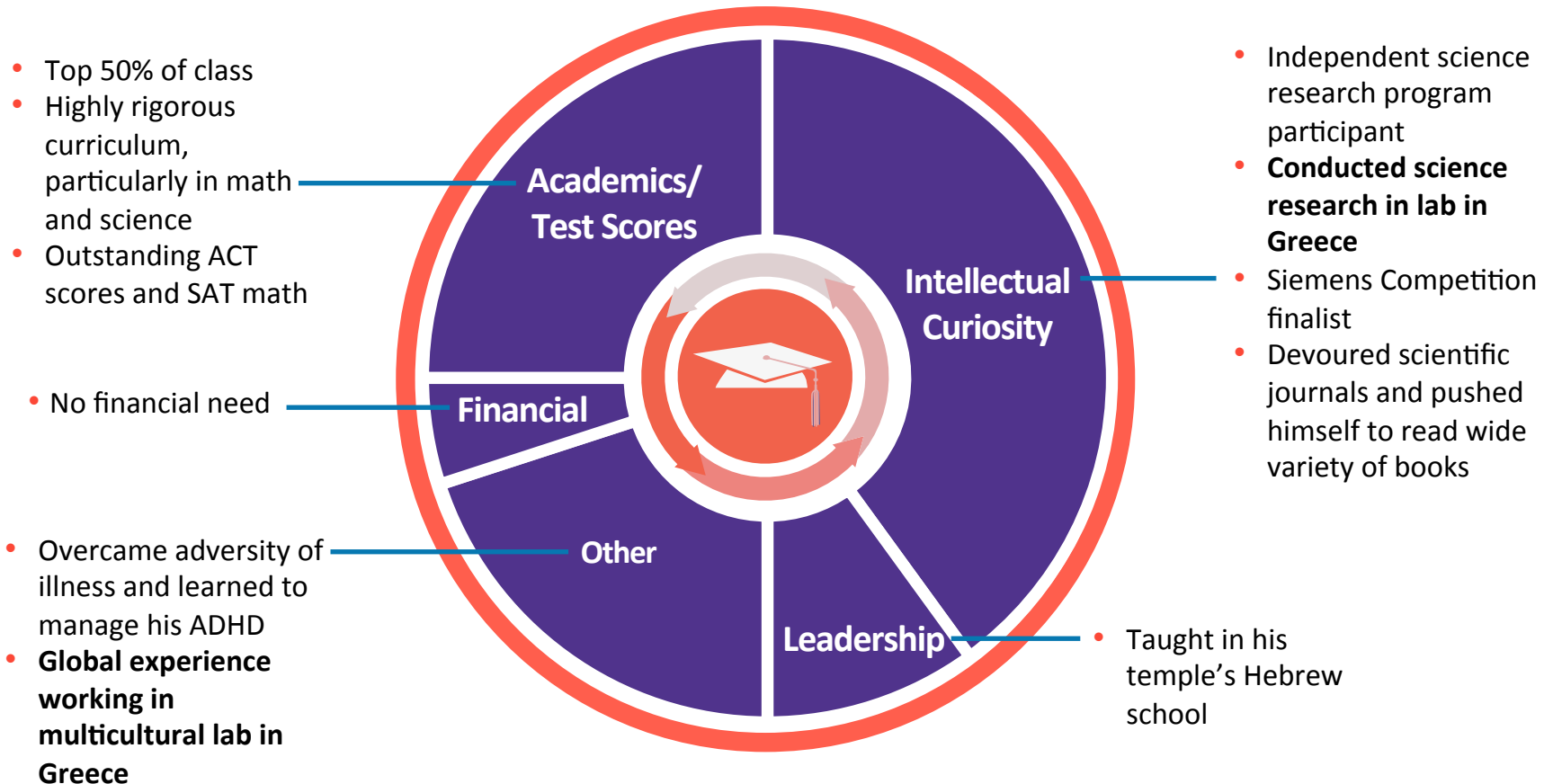
# The College Application Wheel™

Case studies illustrate how students benefit from their summer experiences



# Case Study: Profile

## Adam: The Super Science Nerd



# Case Study: Summer Integration into App

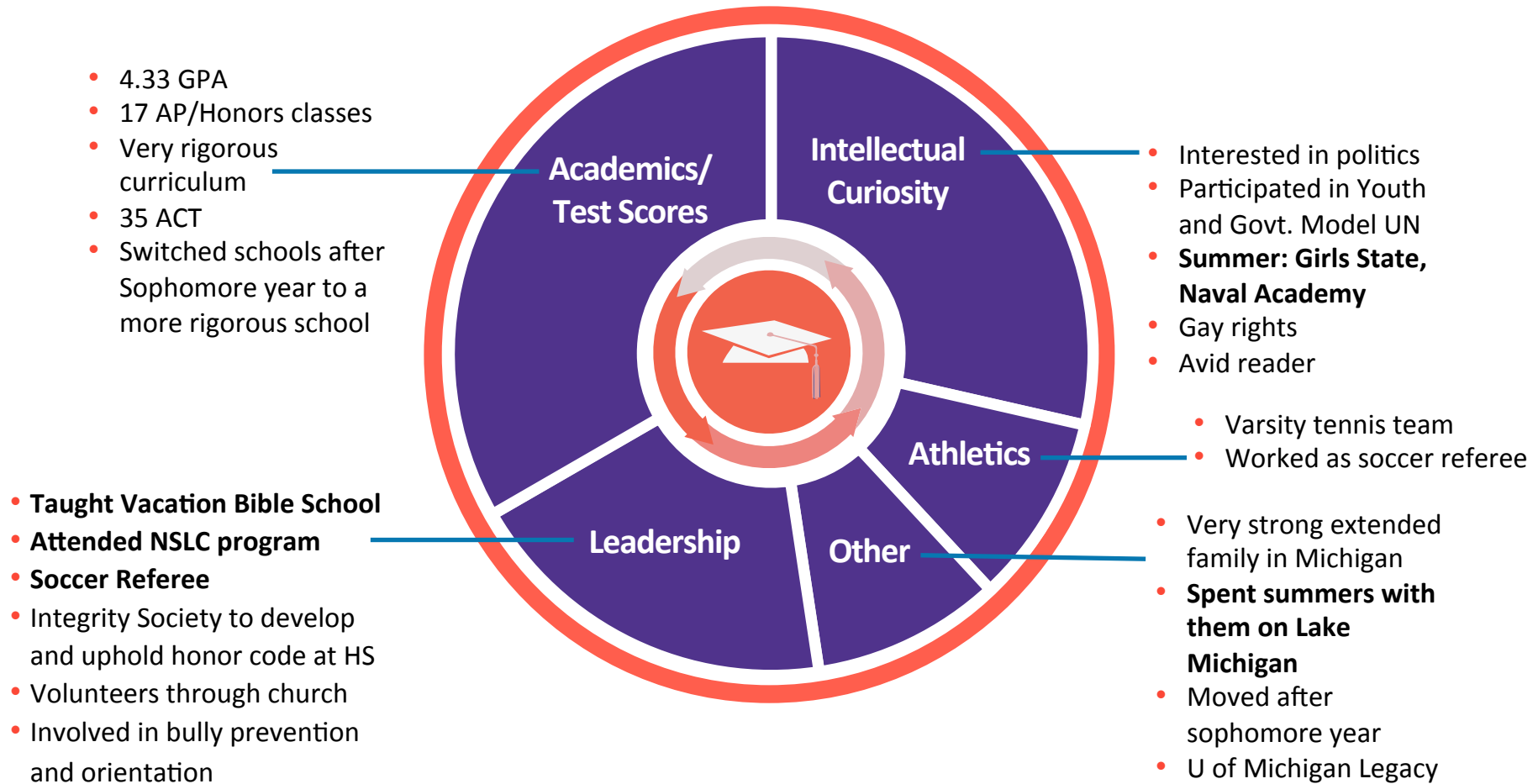
## Adam

- Pushed him out of comfort zone by going to Greece, but discovered the science community in which he thrived
- Used experience as topic for his CommonApp essay
- Science research served as basis for his Siemens contest entry where he became a semi-finalist
- Continued his research in college and graduate school



# Case Study: Profile

## Jenn: Politically Active Family Oriented Leader



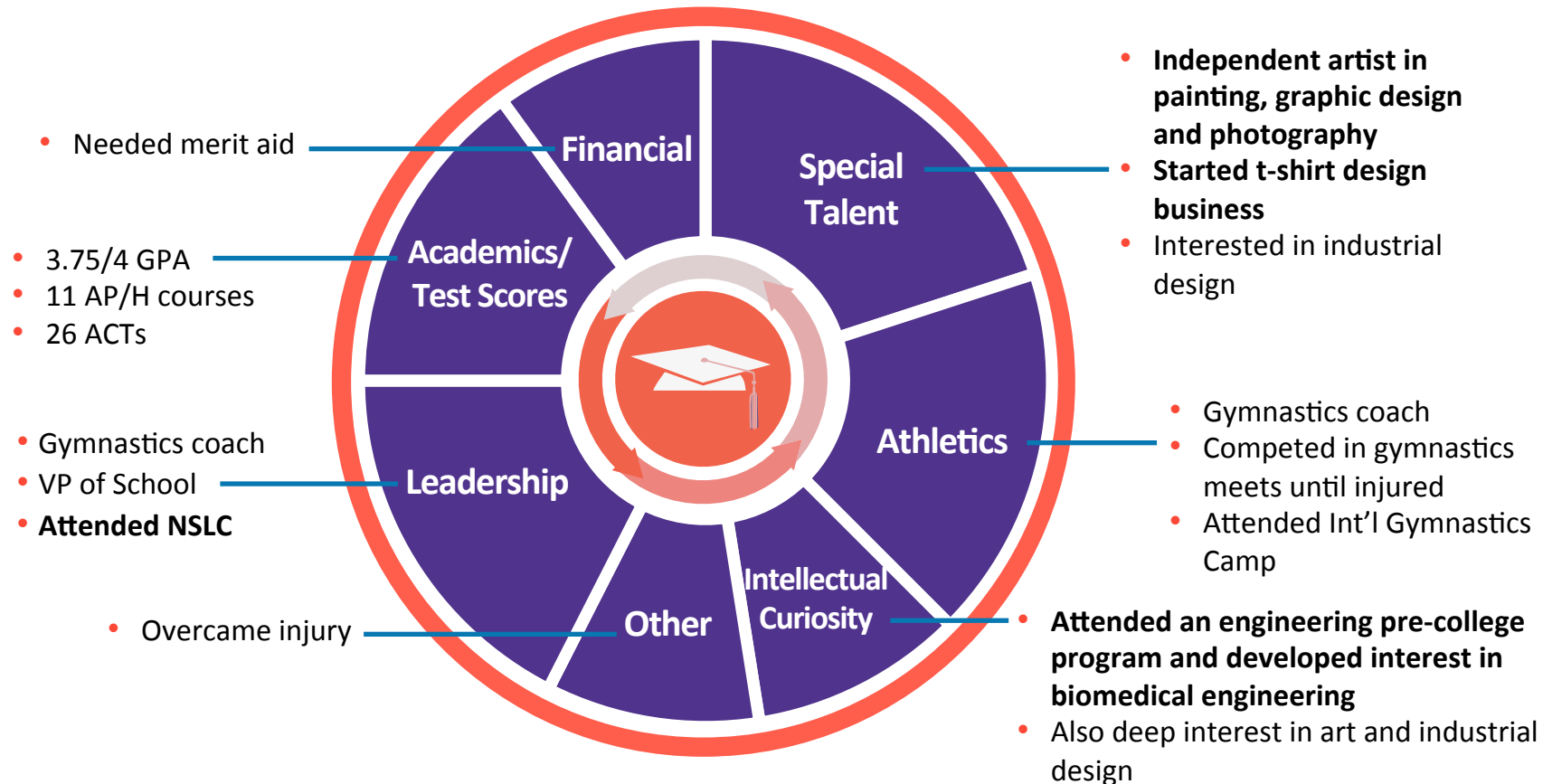
# Case Study: Summer Integration Into App

## Jenn

- Used Girls State and leadership skills developed at NSLC as basis for CommonApp essay
- Communicated desire to make a difference in the world and ability to stand up for her convictions
- Talked about summers on the lake with extended family for Community Essay for Michigan
- Discussed leadership skills developed through refereeing in one of supplemental essays

# Case Study: Profile

## Trey: Artistic Entrepreneurial Gymnast

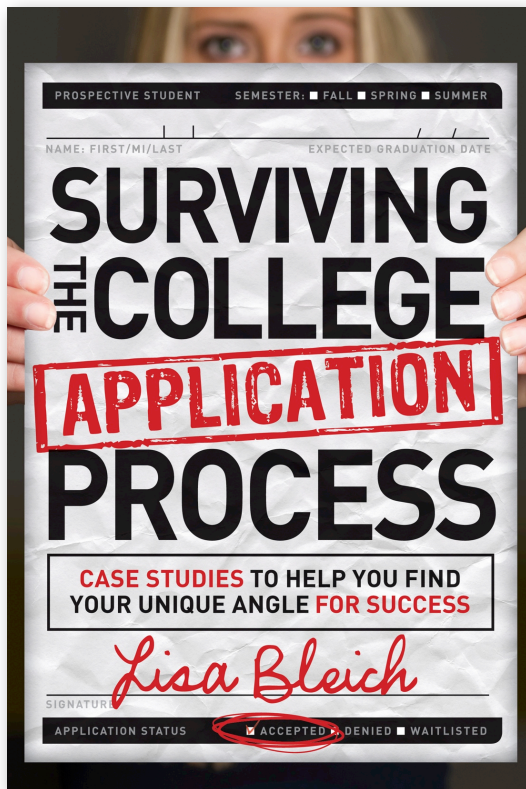


# Case Study: Summer Integration Into App

## Trey

- Depending on school, communicated intellectual curiosity in biomedical engineering or special talent in art and design
- Gave him exposure to a different part of the country and potential career interest
- Gave him time to develop entrepreneurial/art skills

# SURVIVING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



“ Bleich takes the guesswork out of the college application process. Her case studies are easily adapted to fit any student’s college planning needs. Easy to read and fun.

-Steven Antonoff, Ph.D., CEP, author College Match

“ Bleich effectively marries her extensive knowledge of marketing with her experience as an independent college consultant and mentor. Identify and communicate your unique strengths, talents and experiences to make you an angular and more compelling candidate.

-Mark H. Sklarow, CEO Independent Educational Consultants Association