## **Table of Contents**

Part I: Overcoming the Barriers
No More Hand-Holding
Edgar Lopez1
A college visit is a wake-up call for Edgar, who realizes
that to succeed he will have to take more responsibility
for his education.
The Army's Not for Me
Roderick Scarlett2
Roderick considers joining the military after high
school, because college seems financially out of reach.
University of Kitchen?
Orubba Almansouri2
Orubba wants to go to college, but she's not sure if her
father will let her.
My Sister's Courage
Wendy Kwan
Wendy admires her sister's determination to challenge
their traditional family and go to college.
From Failure to College
Tanisia Morris3
Tanisia struggles in elementary school, but through
good study habits and determination she becomes an
excellent student and makes it to college.

Beating the Odds	
Sayda Morales	44
Sayda is inspired by her aunt, an immigrant who	
earned a college degree through enormous hard work	
and sacrifice.	
Part II: Making Your Plan	
My College Cloud	
Kenneth Douglas	51
Kenneth is feeling anxious because he doesn't have	
a clue about how to pick a college, how to apply, and	
what to do about financial aid.	
So You Want to Go to College? Get Organized!	
Janill Briones	56
Janill lays out the basics of applying to college.	
College Application Timeline	59
A month-by-month calendar for applying to college.	
Bookin' It for the SAT	
Hattie Rice	64
To reach her goal of attending a competitive college,	
Hattie sets out to learn 250 SAT vocabulary words in	
228 days.	

How to Write a College Essay	
Esther Rajavelu	69
Tips on how to approach one of the most stressful parts	
of the application: the dreaded personal essay.	
Choosing the Right College for You	
Anita Chikkatur	73
Anita reviews things to think about when selecting a	
college, including location, size, and cost.	
What to Ask When Choosing a College	
Latonya M. Pogue	77
Latonya lists common questions that prospective	
college applicants should ask of students, admissions	
officers, and alumni.	
I Want to Go to a Historically Black College	
Regina Haywood	82
Regina, an African-American student, describes why	
she wants to attend a black university.	
Seeing for Myself	
Latonya M. Pogue	85
Visiting college campuses gives Latonya insights into	
college life that she could never get by just reading	
books.	

Are You Ready for Dorn	n Life?
Magda Czubak	
The ups and downs	of living away from home.
How to Battle the Bure	aucracy
Cassandra Lim	9
Cassandra is shocke	d by how difficult it is to navigate
all the paperwork ar	nd red tape in college.
Part III: Paying for It	
Financial Aid 101	
An in-depth look at	how to finance a college
education, through a	a combination of tuition waivers,
grants, scholarships,	, and loans.
There's Always a Choice	e
Xavier Reyes	10
Xavier describes his	long and winding road to a college
degree—and how he	paid for it.
Take Charge of Your Co	llege Bills
Marci Bayer	11
· ·	n expert on how to manage college
Marci interviews an	compert on now to manage conege
	ing financial aid to the dangers of

Part IV: Surviving College
In My Own Hands
Orlando Hawkins119
As an African-American male who grew up in foster
care, Orlando feels a double stigma. But he's deter-
mined to succeed in college, and finds a way to do so.
Take Our Advice: Adjusting to College126
Freshman Year: A Fresh Start
Ferentz Lafargue
Ferentz finds that college has given him the chance to reinvent himself.
Meet Your Professors132
Five college professors describe what they expect in the
classroom and offer tips to students.
My First Semester: Overworked, Underpaid, and Unprepared
Troy Shawn Welcome
Troy enters college with great expectations, but ends up
dropping out.
Take Our Advice: Managing Your Time143

Community College: A Second Chance
Jordan Temple145
Jordan flourishes at a community college, which he
once looked down on as only a fall-back option.
Take Our Advice: Making the Most of Academics150
Study Strategies152
Minnesota Merengue
Kizzy Charles-Guzman
Kizzy is nervous about attending an overwhelmingly
white school in Minnesota. But once on campus she
makes friends of all races.
Take Our Advice: Dealing with Distractions

# **Using the Book**

Teens: How to Get More Out of This Book1	62
How to Use This Book in Staff Training1	63
Teachers & Staff: How to Use This Book in Groups1	64

Credits	166
About Youth Communication	167
About the Editors	170
More Helpful Books from Youth Communication	172