

# Your Standout Factor

There are more than 26,000 high schools in the U.S. That means there are 26,000 football captains, 26,000 prom queens, 26,000 valedictorians and at least 26,000 yearbook editors. If you want to stand out to a college, you've got to really stand out.

Your Standout Factor is a powerful way to differentiate you from other students applying to college. The most interesting Standout Factors are activities that are typically dominated by adults, or noteworthy tasks that no other high school student does. Either way, a Standout Factor will help separate you from other applicants.

## How to Increase Your Standout Factor

It's very simple. Do something you wouldn't normally consider doing. Standout Factors are not run-of-the-mill activities. Participating on the school's yearbook staff, for example, is not a Standout Factor. In fact, every high school yearbook in the world is put together by students. It is a good learning experience, but it won't necessarily help you stand out.

However, managing the yearbook staff will help you stand out because it shows leadership. But, even better, running a yearbook business will easily help you stand out from the crowd. Not many high school students run a business on the side.

## How to Tell If It's a Standout Factor

If other high school students do it, it's not a Standout Factor. Also the more positive impact your standout activity has on others, the better. This could also be a great way to get Community Service hours.

## Examples of Standout Factors

Make a movie and show it in a theater, hike the Appalachian Trail, volunteer at a medical clinic in a foreign country, help run a political campaign, invent something, start a business with customers and employees. become a TV/radio personality, etc.

## My Current Activities

Writing your current activities will help you devise a plan in an area that you enjoy.

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What would you consider working on to become your Standout Factor?

## Final Thought

It would be a great idea to make an impact in your community using your Standout Factor, while at the same time, receiving community service hours. Pursue leadership roles anytime possible.