Preparing for the College Admissions Game:

1. Print the Profile Cards (all pages except this one) onto cardstock and fold on the dotted line. Glue together both halves to make a two sided card with the G.P.A. printed on one side and bulleted statements on the back.
2. Introduce the activity by asking questions such as: What type of students are selective colleges actively recruiting for their institution? What student behaviors impact your chances of being considered or accepted? What special circumstances draw attention to your application?
3. Ask for 8 volunteers. Give each student a Profile Card, and allow a few moments for them to read over the card.
4. Have students line up in front of the classroom in order of GPA. Then hold up the card with the GPA facing the students, so they can read the information on the back.
5. The teacher reads each statement from College Admission Game Directions, and students move up or back according to what is written on their Profile Card.
6. After the game, debrief the activity.

Front Side of Card (facing audience)  

4.1 G.P.A.  

- You’re in the top 10% of your class.
- You forgot to change the name of the college when word-processing the essay that was sent to several different schools

Back Side of Card (facing student)  

Source: AVID
College Admission Game Directions:

1. If you have taken an exceptionally strong academic program, move up two spaces.
2. If you direct the gospel choir at your church, move up one space.
3. If you clearly stated that this college is your first choice by making an early decision application and commitment, move up two spaces.
4. If your intended major is psychology or pre-med, move back one space.
5. If your intended major is Greek, move up one space.
6. If you do not know any of your teachers well enough to ask for a recommendation, move back two spaces.
7. If, when you word-processed your college essay, you forgot to change the name of the college you were applying to, move back three spaces.
8. If you are a legacy, move up two spaces.
9. If you did not write the optional college essay, move back one space.
10. If the topic of your Personal Statement (College Admissions Essay) was sports as a metaphor for life, move back one space.
11. If you wrote a Personal Statement (College Admissions Essay) that was passed around the office because it was so good, move up two spaces.
12. If you plagiarized your Personal Statement (College Admissions Essay) and got caught, sit down—you’re out of the competition entirely.
13. If you will be the first in your family to attend college, move up two spaces.
14. If you attended an enriching summer program between your junior and senior years, move up two spaces.
15. If you come from a single-parent household and must work part-time to help with expenses, move up two spaces.
16. If you have participated in no extracurricular activities, move back three spaces.
17. If you have participated in a significant community service project, move up one space.
18. If you are an Eagle Scout, move up two spaces.
19. If you are a varsity athlete, move up one space. If you’re all-region in a sport, move up another space.
20. If you earned a “D” in an academic course at the end of your junior year, move back three spaces.
21. If you wrote a letter to the college admission officer and explained the extenuating circumstances surrounding a grade of “D,” move up one space.
22. If you decided to protect your GPA by not taking AP classes offered at your school, move back two spaces.
23. If you are in the top 10% of your graduating class, move up two spaces.
24. If your last name is Gates and the college library is named after a family member, move all the way to the front of the line and stay there.
4.1 G.P.A.

- You’re in the top 10% of your class.

- You forgot to change the name of the college when word-processing the essay that was sent to several different schools.
4.0 G.P.A.

- You attended an enriching summer program between your junior and senior year.
- You decided not to take A.P. classes (even though your school offered them) because you wanted to protect your G.P.A.
3.7 G.P.A.

- The topic of your Personal Statement (College Admissions Essay) was sports as a metaphor for life.
- You’re an Eagle Scout
- You’re all-region in basketball
3.5 G.P.A.

- Your intended major is Greek
- You participated in NO extracurricular activities
- You attended an enriching summer program between your junior and senior year.
3.3 G.P.A.

- You applied early decision to your first-choice college.
- Your intended major is psychology.
- You plagiarized your Personal Statement (College Admissions Essay) and got caught.
3.1 G.P.A.

- Your intended major is psychology or pre-med.
- You wrote a Personal Statement (College Admissions Essay) that was passed around the office because it was so good.
- You’re the first in your family to attend college.
- You’re a varsity athlete.
- You earned a “D” in your junior year but wrote the college to explain extenuating circumstances.
- You’ve taken an exceptionally strong academic program.
You direct the gospel choir at your church.
You are quiet and don’t know your teachers well enough to ask for a recommendation.
You’ve participated in community service.
You’ve taken an exceptionally strong academic program.
You’re from a single-parent household and must work to help with expenses.
You’re a legacy at the college to which you are applying.

You did not write the optional essay for your college application.

You’ve participated in some community service.

Your last name is Gates and the college library is named after a family member.