

Looking Beyond Grades and Scores

The Boston Globe

a **laundry list** – a long list of unrelated items

a **track record** – a history of accomplishments

stifle – suppress, hold back

admissions team/committee/panel – group at a college or university that decides which applicants will be accepted

stand out – be noticeably different from others

shrouded in mystery – covered

at once – [here] at the same time

the lay of the land – the general situation

vying for a slot – trying to get a position (in the university)

shoo-ins – people who will certainly be admitted

deny (denied) – reject, say no

to boot – in addition to everything else

holistic – concerned with the whole of something, not just the parts

a **magnet high school** – a specialized high school (e.g., focused on science, the arts, business, etc.)

the **Ronald McDonald House** – a house (sponsored by the MacDonald's corporation) that offers a low-cost place to stay for parents and family members of children who are undergoing treatment in hospitals far away from their homes

- As you read, note the various *criteria* used the by the Tufts University and Amherst College admissions panels when deciding which applicants to admit.

- What decision do the committees make for each of these cases? What are their reasons?

Student	Decision	Reasons
from a public high school in suburban Chicago		
a straight-A student, girl scout, dancer, peer tutor		
a student from a blue-collar Italian family		
a hearing-impaired student from a rough neighborhood		
a Colorado student with a mediocre ACT score		
a New Mexico student who earned all A's		
a student from Queens who scored high on AP exams		
a student who grew up in a poor immigrant household		

stand out – *be noticeably different from everyone else*
angst – *fear and worry*
aspire to – *hope to have/do*
breadth – *noun of 'broad' (involved in several different areas, but not deeply in any of them)*
depth – *noun of 'deep' (involved in only one or two activities, but deeply)*
budding – *beginning*
credentials – *documents, proof of qualifications (e.g., a diploma)*
deliberation – *careful thinking before reaching a decision*
embrace – *enthusiastically accept*
flunk – *fail (slang)*
impartial – *fair, unbiased*
intangible – *difficult to express in words or to clearly explain*
intuitive – *a feeling*
spark – *a special difference that*
speculation – *guessing about what may or may not happen*
stumped by – *confused by, unable to answer*
unanimous – *100% agreement*
convey – *express*
crude – *basic, unsophisticated*
crumple – *crush a sheet of paper into a ball*
rip – *tear*
cumbersome – *difficult, complicated*
predictor – *a piece of information that allows you to make a good prediction*
quirk – *unusual personality characteristic*