

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 26,000 yearbook editors. If you want to stand out to a college, you've got to really stand out.

There is, however, a very powerful way to differentiate you from other teenagers applying to college: Take up a Non-Teenager Activity, or NTA.

NTAs are activities that teenagers typically don't do. These are activities dominated by adults, or tasks that no one else does. Either way, an NTA will help you stand out from other teenagers.

HOW TO START YOUR NTA

It's simple. Do something that you wouldn't normally consider doing. NTAs aren't your run-of-the-mill activity.

Participating on your school's yearbook staff, for example, is not an NTA. In fact, every high school yearbook in the world is put together by teenagers. It's a good learning experience, but it won't necessarily help you stand out. Do the yearbook, but also do an NTA.

Managing the yearbook staff is more of an NTA because it shows leadership. But, taking it further will give you a true NTA. Running a yearbook business is a very non-teenager thing to do and will easily help you stand out from the crowd. Few teenagers, if any, own yearbook production companies.

HOW TO TELL IF IT'S AN NTA

If other teens do it, it's not an NTA. Also, the more impact your NTA has on others, the better.

EXAMPLES OF NTAs

- Restore antique instruments
- Hike the Appalachian Trail
- Discover and name a new comet
- Volunteer at a medical clinic in an African village
- Breed a special strain of flower and name it after your grandmother
- Make a movie and convince real theaters to show it
- Invent something
- Start a real business with customers and employees
- Help run a political campaign
- Become a TV or radio personality

MY CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

POSSIBLE NTAs:

CAPTIP! Go for big impact with your NTA. Make an impact in your community. For more tips, go to www.Cappex.com/tips.

Content adapted from the book "In" by Mike Moyer.