**First Steps**

1. Visit a college being considered
2. Visit a college being considered
3. Visit a college being considered!!!!

**Before Visiting**

Examine student-productions publications or listen or watch to student-produced streaming media. What is the tone of student-produced works? What are the subjects discussed or preferences shown by student-produced works. What does the student-produced works say about campus life?

**When to Visit**

Accept any formal orientations or campus tours offered (of course), but also make sure to go during the “off-season,” not the fall or spring semesters. How a college functions during a summer session reveals a lot about how the college is funded and managed.

**While Visiting**

Ask to walk through a building that catches your eye but was not on any campus tour you took. Ask to sit in a real classroom. Especially if visiting in the daytime during a semester, ask to visit the office of a professor that has office hours at the time of your request (the professor does not have to be in the major department of interest). Especially for parents, visit the administrative assistant for the department of interest if such a person, often called the “departmental secretary,” exists. Walk the campus if college is not an urban school. Walk/drive around a three-block radius if college is *not* set apart from the community (as SUNY senior colleges campuses are).