



JANUARY 2025

VOLUME IV

THE COLLEGIATE PATH NEWSLETTER

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FOUNDERS' LETTER

Hello and Welcome, TCP Mentees, Friends, and Families!
Team TCP wishes you a **Happy New Year 2025!**

We are excited to share the **fourth edition** of our newsletter, and have many updates to share, so buckle up!

2024 was a significant year for us—we expanded our team (**three new members** joining us), offered **25 Master Classes** and an **Essay Bootcamp** for our applicant cohort (**TCP24**), and introduced the **TCP25 cohort** to the college application process through **major selection** and **college research** Master Classes.

We will start off the upcoming year by welcoming the TCP25 cohort into the start of the **application process**—we will be increasing the **frequency** of our meetings and starting them on completing the various application requirements! Based on our TCP24 cohort's feedback, we have curated an **updated list of Master Classes**, and will be sharing the **calendar** with everyone soon—please keep an eye out for our email. A copy of our consolidated 2025 calendar covering all cohorts is included later in this newsletter.

Over the last three months, we spent most of our time working with the **TCP24 cohort** on their **Early round applications**—a review of our WhatsApp group chats in **October** showed our most used words to be **editing, proofing, word count, deadline, and Common App!** In **November**, we supported **21** applications to the **University of California (UC)**, amid our team coming together for a training session (**Amanda** joining us in person in **Bangalore!**). Since **December**, our WhatsApp groups have been continuously buzzing with the news of some **stellar acceptances**—congratulations to our mentees heading to **college** in the fall of 2025! The list of college acceptances follows in the next section.

Here are some numbers to better understand **our early admission season**. Most mentees applied to an average of **four schools** in the early round.

Number of students who applied early: **26**

Number of acceptances received so far: **43**

Total Scholarships offered: **\$1,731,288**

Submissions for the **Regular admissions cycle** started in **November**, with the majority now submitted, and the remainder due in the coming days. Our mentees will be receiving results from colleges through the **end of March**. We will publish the complete admissions cycle results in the **May** edition of our newsletter!

Our **younger mentees** have also been busy! In addition to their regular meetings, many of them have started shortlisting and applying for **summer programs**, with a few already receiving their acceptances. We will share more news on this in our **next newsletter**.

Meghna recently visited **Maker's Asylum** in **Goa**, where she viewed some **interesting projects** created by the participants, including a tennis racquet that measures the force of the serve using the colors of a traffic stoplight, and a harp that is played without strings! We are keen to introduce this space to our **younger mentees** to bolster their **creativity** and explore their **interests**!

In other updates, some **major changes** to the format of the **ACT** have been announced for 2025. And for the **SAT**, a **new test date** has been added in the month of **September**. We have provided our related recommendations further in the newsletter.

Finally, our mentees from **previous application cohorts** have generously shared pictures and “insider updates” from their **college campuses**—some of these **photos** can be found at the end of the newsletter!

Here's to a fruitful **application decision season**, and an eventful start for our **TCP25 applicant cohort**.

We wish everyone a productive year ahead!

Amanda and Meghna

EARLY APPLICATIONS UPDATE 2024

Colleges where our TCP24 mentees have received acceptances in the Early Round—in several cases, with multiple acceptances within our cohort.

Agnes Scott College
Babson College
Case Western Reserve University
Durham University
Fordham University
Imperial College, London
Lewis And Clark College
Loyola Marymount University
Marist College
Michigan State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Reed College
Rochester Institute Of Technology
Rose-Hulman Institute Of Technology
Santa Clara University

Sarah Lawrence College
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
University of Bristol
University of Edinburgh
University of Pennsylvania - *The Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology*
University of Pittsburgh
University of San Francisco
University of St. Andrews
University of Warwick
Washington University In St. Louis
Yale University

TEST UPDATES

We have some breaking updates for the ACT and the SAT!

ACT

- The ACT will be **online** from Spring 2025 (TBD: April - July 2025).
- The exam duration reduces to **two hours** (fewer questions per section).
- **Science** will become **optional**.
- Due to these major changes, we recommend mentees to **not consider** opting for the ACT this year, providing time for the changes to be implemented.

SAT

- The College Board has added an **additional** 2025 SAT test date: **September 13**.
- This allows mentees to **better plan** their two SAT attempts over the course of the year.
- We will discuss this further and plan for each mentee in our **one-on-one meetings**.

WRITING AND STUDY SKILLS CENTER

Productive School Breaks Master Class!

Our **Writing and Study Skills Center** has successfully supported numerous mentees across all cohorts by offering **one-on-one** customized writing coaching and fostering improved study habits. Watching each mentee **enhance their grades** and **build self-confidence** has been a gratifying experience.

Beyond personalized coaching, we also conduct monthly **Master Classes**. The **November** session focused on using upcoming school breaks for our **Grade 7-11** mentees productively:

1. Strengthen Academic Foundation

- Review Past Notes and Study Materials
- Explore Online Courses
- Read and Conduct Research
- Start SAT Prep
- Participate in Competitions

2. Try New Activities or Deepen Skills & Leadership

Possibilities include:

- Sports Camps or Clinics
- Makerspaces & Creative Workshops
- Performing Arts and Music Programs
- Community Service Projects

3. Explore Areas of Career Interest

- Reading and Research in Career-Related Areas
- Job Shadowing
- Internships
- Interview a Professional

4. Read!

- School breaks are the perfect time to catch up on reading
- Referencing books is critical for college essays
- You can also read while traveling - it is a good use of "dead" time!

Mentees should look **beyond school academics** and opportunities, as they need to explore **new fields** to discover potential passions, build **foundational skills**, and deepen their **knowledge** in their areas of interest.

For our **Early Advising** cohorts in **Grades 7 and 8**, it means **experimenting** with new opportunities, identifying their **preferences**, and reflecting on their **emerging strengths and development objectives**.

We help mentees **plan their breaks** and **apply** for their chosen courses or activities, ensuring they make the most of their selected opportunities.

TCP'S ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Here are three enrichment opportunities open exclusively for our mentees!

Ladki Leaders - A leadership program focused on empowering young girls in **Grades 2, 3, and 4** through leadership training, personal development, and creative activities. The curriculum is made by **Girl Scouts in California, USA**, with the core team (including mothers and daughters) based in **India and California**.

We are seeking a **Program Intern** currently in **Grades 8-10** to facilitate engaging sessions and ensure smooth operations through twice-monthly in-person sessions, held every other **Saturday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**, and online team calls every alternate week, totaling **6-8 hours per month**. **Key responsibilities** include organizing and leading engaging activities, maintaining communication with parents, assisting with scheduling, logistics, and materials preparation, and provide mentorship and support to participants.

How to apply: Submit a **resume and cover letter** to **ladkileaders@gmail.com**. The internship will be in-person at **Pebble Bay Apartments, North Bangalore**.

Matter.Party - A **sustainable venture** focused on creating a **circular economy** for parties and celebrations. We make **rentable party decor** in different themes and colors and are committed to using textile waste after the consumer's usage from **Bangalore** to create our decor. The products are all designed in-house and put together by **local women** with no waste going into the landfills. This to-rent model supports **convenient and cost-effective** celebrations without using single-use plastic, paper, and balloon decor!

We are in the **production phase** and looking for someone to help us **make** our various products. If you love working on creative projects, can work within a deadline and looking to get some hands-on experience with a **sustainability venture**, please get in touch.

How to apply: Call or message **Bhavna** on **91-9987023592**.

Project Maargam - A **Bangalore-based non-profit** working with students (**ages 15-17 years**) from **underserved communities** through on-ground mentorships, skill-building workshops, and social impact projects.

For the months of **January - March 2025**, we are looking for:

- **Operations Lead:** Manage daily operations and ensure smooth execution.
- **Event Management Intern:** Plan and organize impactful events.
- **Fundraising Intern:** Create and execute campaigns to mobilize resources.
- **Writing Mentorship Program Lead:** Mentor budding writers through workshops.
- **Book Club Curriculum Design Intern:** Design engaging book discussions and activities.

How to apply: WhatsApp at **7012717564** or fill out the **Google Form**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Introducing our new segment called **Did You Know?** where we will share some **unique and weird** facts from the world of **college admissions**—basically anything that surprised us! Here are our picks for this edition-

Want life to be a joyride? Earn a BS in Theme Park Engineering!

Offered by **California State Long Beach**, it prepares students to work as engineers in theme parks or amusement facilities, with courses in electrical power, and electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic control.

Calling all Swifties: You can take *Taylor Swift and Her World* at Harvard!

Examine Taylor Swift's journey from a 16-year-old country artist to a **global musical sensation**. The course looks at her diverse musical portfolio, the art of song-writing, and themes such as fan culture, celebrity dynamics, adolescence, and adulthood.

HELLO FROM OUR TEAM!

We have two new team members to introduce!

Shruti Srivastava

Chief of Staff: The second Shruti in our small team, Shruti has joined us as our Chief of Staff after a career spanning entrepreneurship, financial services, and strategic consulting. Her role encompasses managing various stakeholders, driving process improvements, implementing strategic organizational change, keeping our team accountable, and building strong relationships with our vendor partners to drive TCP's overall growth and vision.



Aishwarya Mathew

Research and Marketing Associate: Aishwarya contributes in a dual role by handling all of our internal research requests and supporting our marketing efforts. Her background in law and passion for all things social media allows her to adopt an analytical approach to college-focused research and also propose and implement marketing initiatives that are engaging and informative.



2025 TCP CALENDAR

Please note our team's out-of-office days and relevant Master Class dates!

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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31						

APRIL

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28	29	30				

MAY

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JUNE

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30						

JULY

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28	29	30	31			

AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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29	30					

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Holidays

Non-Applicant Cohort
Master Class

TCP Training &
Development

Applicant Cohort (TCP25)
Master Class

TCP25 (+) Non-Applicant
Cohort Master Class

TCP24 Cohort Send-Off

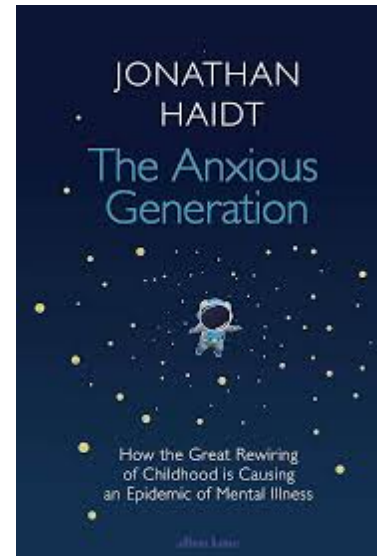
BETWEEN THE LINES: OUR PICKS

Discover what's on our team's book shelves!

Shruti Srivastava

In ***The Anxious Generation***: *How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*, Jonathan Haidt explores the alarming rise in mental health issues among adolescents, particularly since the 2010s. He attributes this crisis to the "Great Rewiring of Childhood," where children's activities shifted from physical, play-based interactions to screen-heavy, digital engagement. In the book, Haidt highlights the adverse effects of smartphones and social media, including sleep deprivation, social comparison, and fragmented attention, particularly among teenage girls.

The book provides compelling data on the link between increased screen time and rising rates of anxiety and depression. Despite critiques of economic and academic pressures also being a part of the problem, the book serves as an essential resource for parents, educators, and policymakers. It calls for balancing technology use with unstructured, real-world play to ensure healthier mental and emotional development for future generations.



Aishwarya

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig is one of those books that quietly settles into your heart and makes you reflect on life's endless "what ifs." It tells the story of Nora Seed, who finds herself in a mystical library suspended between life and death. Each book in the library represents a different version of her life, a result of the choices she did or did not make.

What I loved most about this book was its simplicity in tackling complex emotions. It does not lecture or overwhelm, but gently nudges one to think about regret, fulfillment, and the beauty of imperfection. It is a book for anyone who has ever wondered about the paths not taken. By its end, *The Midnight Library* leaves one with a renewed sense of perspective, a little more willingness to appreciate the imperfect beauty of one's own life, and is a comforting reminder that the life we're living might just be enough.



MENTEES' BOOK BUZZ

These books have passed the “teenager test”!

My Brilliant Friend

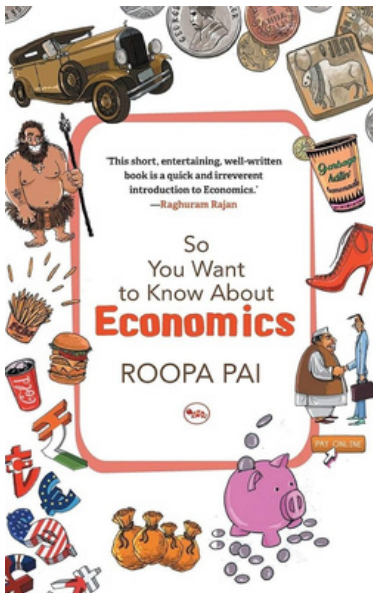
- from a Grade 10 student in Singapore

I loved reading *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante (a pseudonym for the true author), that follows two girls: Elena and her confidante/rival Lila, from ages 6 to 16 as they grow up in a working-class neighborhood in Naples. Ferrante is a brilliant storyteller; the plain language she uses places the focus on the complex web of relationships between the characters and how their roles in the neighborhood dictate their actions, giving way to themes of class, gender, and identity. Most of the book follows Elena and Lila's friendship, narrated through Elena's eyes. Through her perspective, we see how they are exceptionally close yet constantly push themselves to outdo each other. For this reason, the book is often seen as a book about female experience and friendship, but I believe that Ferrante's way of writing makes this message universal. Go read it.



So You Want to Talk About Economics - from a Grade 9 student in India

Roopa Pai's book, ***So You Want to Talk About Economics*** makes economics seem simple and fun. I always thought economics was boring and only for adults, but this book changed my mind. It's written in a way that feels like you're talking to a cool, funny teacher who knows how to explain hard things without making you feel dumb. The book talks about how economics is not just about money or graphs, but about choices and how they affect the world around us. It explains big ideas like supply and demand, markets, and globalization using easy to understand examples. I especially liked the way the book connects economics to real-life stories, such as how farmers make decisions or how countries trade with each other. What makes this book extra special is the humor and simple language. It never feels like you're reading a textbook, and there are illustrations and fun facts that keep you hooked. Even if you don't like economics, this book might just change your mind like it did for me!



COLLEGE PHOTO ALBUM!

We are excited to share snippets from the college journeys of our previous cohorts!



Rochester Institute of Technology



Claremont McKenna College



Grinnell College



University of Southern California



Virginia Tech University



Rutgers University



American University



Northeastern University



Colgate University



George Washington University



Haverford College

