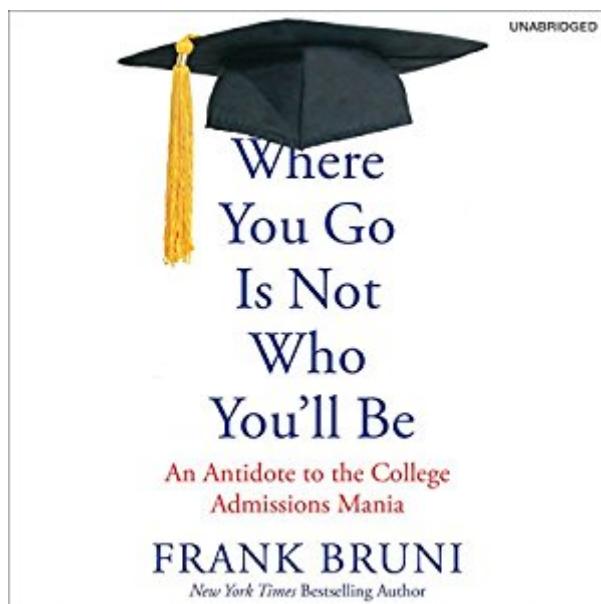


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# Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote To The College Admissions Mania



## **Synopsis**

Over the last few decades, Americans have turned college admissions into a terrifying and occasionally devastating process, preceded by test prep, tutors, all sorts of stratagems, all kinds of rankings, and a conviction among too many young people that their futures will be determined and their worth established by which schools say yes and which say no. That belief is wrong. It's cruel. And in *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be*, Frank Bruni explains why, giving students and their parents a new perspective on this brutal, deeply flawed competition and a path out of the anxiety it provokes. Bruni, a best-selling author and a columnist for the *New York Times*, shows that the Ivy League has no monopoly on corner offices, governors' mansions, or the most prestigious academic and scientific grants. Through statistics, surveys, and the stories of hugely successful people who didn't attend the most exclusive schools, he demonstrates that many kinds of colleges - large public universities, tiny hideaways in the hinterlands - serve as ideal springboards. And he illuminates how to make the most of them. What matters in the end are a student's efforts in and out of the classroom, not the gleam of his or her diploma. *Where you go isn't who you'll be*. Americans need to hear that - and this indispensable manifesto says it with eloquence and respect for the real promise of higher education.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Bruni does an excellent job throughout this book. He bolsters his arguments consistently using various methods, including data, anecdotes, and interviews. His writing is fairly eloquent, and he achieves his main argument repeatedly throughout the book: where you go is not who you'll be. I recommend every high school student and their parent(s) read this, as well as, those seeking a

perspective on the college admissions process. It is somewhat disheartening to learn about the bizarre admissions process, which simply fractures students' confidence and ostensibly diminishes their credentials. For many, this book is a must-read because the admissions process is extremely convoluted and unexplainable-- it truly is incomprehensible. But, Bruni does proceed to examine these various facets and does a great job in explaining them in an understandable and clear way.

Great for me, as I consider the college search, as a prof and Ivy League grad, who nonetheless has no idea about what higher education is like for the potential applicant ...

Frank Bruni has beautifully articulated what I have been trying to communicate to my students for the last 26 years as a college counselor: that branding is not a good way to select an education. I try to teach my students how to be smart consumers when purchasing an education. *And this does not include shopping for the name brand.* Instead, if students could match themselves to a college, rather than to a bumper sticker, they would find that they will experience intellectual, social, and spiritual educations at many institutions. The college search process should be a journey of honest self-reflection and burgeoning interests, rather than following cookie cutter paths to the same few colleges. A great education nurtures a developing brain's natural curiosity. With this in mind, students will graduate with the knowledge that they can discover unique educational experiences under many rocks, and this is value in Frank Bruni's message. Nicole Oringer, MA, Ed.M

With a daughter about to enter her senior year of high school, this was a wonderful resource for our family. The book does not give a lot of specific advice on the mechanics of investigating and applying to schools, but help give a better mindset of how to think about the higher education experience. Readers who have a very strong allegiance to the elite, Ivy-league schools will likely feel that Bruni is overly harsh in questioning the value of attending (and paying for) that type of education. However, it is still a must read for anyone who wants to engage more deeply in the higher education selection process with their family member or just to learn more about the evolving state of high education.

OK, I did not read this book - my wife did. She knows a lot, went to a top school. Every few minutes she would say, "this is really useful." She found a lot of new, interesting insights throughout - there is no higher recommendation, she's very critical. So trust her, not me.

An excellent read. I wish it dug a little more into discussing the experiences of students in more selective institutions beyond the anecdotal level. It also provides an "antidote" on an individualized level and does not necessarily show how fighting against the current of college admissions mania can be translated into more widespread practice. Overall, though, this book does a fantastic job of broadcasting the message that it's possible to get a quality undergraduate education pretty much anywhere, not just in the Ivy League, and that what is so much more important is finding the "best fit" institution for a student rather than the one with the designer label.

This is a great must read for kids looking at colleges! Puts things into perspective. My son gained a lot of insight from reading this book and it really helped him decide what he really wanted/needed/was looking for in a college.

Driving your child to go to an ivy league school may be detrimental to their well-being and success. So if you want to stop counter productive behavior, help your child enjoy life more and succeed, read this book.

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