What Order do I Need to Get Things Done?

In high school, organizing your tasks in a logical order can greatly enhance your preparation for the future. Here's a suggested timeline and order of tasks to help you stay on track:

Fall of Junior Year

Assess Your Academic Standing

- Review your grades and course load to ensure you're on track for your post-high school plans.
- Enroll in challenging courses that align with college or career interests.

Begin Standardized Test Preparation

- Start preparing for the SAT or ACT. Consider enrolling in prep courses or using online resources.
- Plan to take these tests early so you have the option to retake them if needed.

Explore Colleges and Careers

- Start researching potential colleges, universities, or vocational programs. Attend college fairs and visit campuses if possible.
- Explore career options through internships, part-time jobs, or shadowing professionals in fields of interest.

Winter of Junior Year

Take Standardized Tests

- Sit for the SAT or ACT. Taking them early gives you time to retake them in spring or fall of senior year if you wish to improve your scores.

Deepen Extracurricular Engagement

- Take on leadership roles or initiate projects within your extracurricular activities to strengthen your college applications.

Begin Networking for Recommendations

- Identify teachers and mentors who know you well and can write strong letters of recommendation. Start conversations to ensure they're willing to support your applications.

Spring of Junior Year

Visit Colleges

- Schedule visits to colleges you are interested in, ideally while classes are in session to get a realistic feel of the campus environment.

Prepare for AP Exams

- If you're enrolled in AP courses, begin reviewing content to ensure you're prepared for the exams in May.

Draft Your College Essay

- Start brainstorming and drafting college application essays. This early start allows ample time for revisions.

Scholarship Search

- Begin looking for scholarships and understanding the requirements for financial aid. Note deadlines for applications.

Summer Before Senior Year

Finalize College List

- Narrow down your list of colleges based on your research, visits, and any admissions meetings you've attended.

Complete College Essays

- Finalize your essays. Have teachers, mentors, or peers review them for feedback.

Prepare College Applications

- Start filling out college applications, particularly if you plan to apply early decision or early action.

Plan for Senior Year

- Organize your senior year schedule to ensure it continues to show a strong academic rigor and balance with extracurricular activities.

Rest and Recharge

- Take time to relax and rejuvenate before you enter a busy senior year.

Following this order will help you manage your responsibilities efficiently, reduce stress, and enhance your readiness for college or career pursuits after high school. Remember to check specific dates and deadlines for tests and applications relevant to your plans!