

Reach, Match, and Safety Schools Comparison Worksheet

Given today's competitive admissions climate, some students apply to as many as 8-12 colleges. A prospective college list should contain about 25% Safety schools, 50% Target schools, and 25% Reach schools. Reach, Match, and Safety schools are defined as:

Safety Schools – Your test scores, GPA, and/or class rank typically fall above the 75th percentile of admitted students and the school usually accepts more than 50% of its applicants. You will almost certainly gain admission.

Match Schools – Your test scores, GPA, and/or class rank more closely fit the ones of accepted students or at least fall within a realistic range. You have a reasonable chance (typically better than 50-50) for admission.

Reach Schools – Your test scores, GPA, and/or class rank are below those of the majority of accepted students at these schools. It would take something compelling on your application to override those odds.

If the school's admissions rate is under 30%, it's probably not a true Safety school for many applicants. This includes those applicants with well-above average scores and other strong factors. (Remember, what category a school falls into is relative to a student's unique statistics. A Reach school for one student may be a Safety School for another student.)

Student Data

Name: _____

GPA _____ SAT Score: _____ math (max 800) _____ reading + writing (max 800) _____ Total SAT (max 1600)

ACT Score: _____ English _____ math _____ reading _____ science _____ Composite

<u>College/University</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Test Score Range</u>	<u>% of Applicants Admitted</u>	<u>Safety/Match/Reach</u>
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				