

## **SOME QUICK TIPS FOR PROVIDING COLLEGE GUIDANCE COUNSELING TO THE RENAISSANCE SOUL**

Margaret Lobenstine, M.A.  
[www.ToGetUnstuck.com](http://www.ToGetUnstuck.com)

When working with Renaissance Soul high school students considering their post-secondary school educational path, be sure, when talking about their future, to unhook post high school choices from final career outcomes. Otherwise the student may equate choosing a college with signing on to something for life, and, consciously or unconsciously resisting that, give the choice far less attention than it deserves.

Renaissance Soul teens are far more likely to respond positively to approaches along these lines:

- a) Let's look at the college descriptions in terms of the ones that offer the most interdisciplinary programs and/or opportunities to design one's own major(s)
- b) Let's look at colleges that are in areas where a lot is available, so if you become interested in something as you go along, and the school you happen to pick now doesn't have what you need, you can take courses at a nearby school and still get credit
- c) Since parts of you love being in nature and parts of you love being near lots of cultural stimulation, let's look for schools that are near, but not in, big cities and/or schools that are more rural but in areas of high cultural stimulation
- d) We all know you get itchy feet after you've been in any place for too long, so let's make sure we look at schools that offer semester/full year abroad programs and/or exchanges with colleges in other parts of America
- e) Perhaps you would get more out of college if you applied now but took a year off between graduation and matriculation to do a variety of non-academic things.
- f) Let's ask the schools that interest you how flexible they are when it comes to changing majors/having more than one minor/giving credit for off-campus experiences

◇

*Copyright Margaret N. Lobenstine 2000*