

1. In 2005 the College Board altered the SAT by introducing an essay-writing component, which increased the maximum score from 1600 to 2400. Since the youth graduated in 2002, they took the SAT under the older system. For ease of comparison, I have listed the rough equivalent of the post-2005 scoring system in brackets. See College Board, “The College Board Announces a New SAT,” <http://press.collegeboard.org/releases/2002/college-board-announces-new-satsupregsup>. Accessed March 1, 2011.
2. A later e-mail from Stacey revealed that she eventually changed her career plans and switched her major to African American studies; she hopes to pursue a graduate degree.
3. Colleges vary in the strings they attach to early decision programs. Some require the applicant to agree in advance to attend the school if admitted; others do not. Still others have hybrid admissions options that combine certain aspects of traditional procedures with elements of the early decision approach.
4. Although Tyrec mentions only this incident, his father tells me about two court appearances. In both instances, Mr. Taylor hired a lawyer to defend Tyrec, a step he believes was critically important. Mr. Taylor’s income is extremely limited, however; he has not been able to pay the second lawyer and reports feeling bad about that.
5. The deadline for applying for financial aid had already passed by the time Tyrec decided to apply to the college.
6. Mr. Taylor suspects his son might have been selling marijuana during this period.
7. Ms. Taylor had herself been attending, off and on, the University of Phoenix,

which is a for-profit online college. At the time of the interview, Ms. Taylor was not able to enroll in courses because they had “messed up” her financial aid and demanded repayment “I owe them some money,” she said. “They really put you in a bad situation when they do this kind of thing.”

8. Jenna also went through a very rough patch as a young adult. She was HIV positive by the time she was eighteen; went to Florida (before her mother and siblings went) but then returned; she continued to use drugs and alcohol. When she was around twenty-two, she was sent to jail after being arrested for coming to Katie’s defense in a fight that Katie had initiated; Jenna became extremely sick while in jail. Ms. Brindle, Katie, and Jenna each told me separately that Ms. Brindle blamed Katie for Jenna’s jail term and had told Katie she would not forgive her if Jenna died. Jenna recovered, learned to live without drugs or alcohol, and, over the course of several years, became deeply religious. She and her husband have been married for the past two years, but their relationship began six years ago. They have three children; all are HIV negative (as is Jenna’s husband). Due to advances in HIV treatment, Jenna’s HIV is “barely detectable,” and she is able to live a normal life. Her husband, who is African American, earns \$20 per hour as a phone technician. Since Jenna is a stay-at-home mother, money is tight. Nevertheless, Jenna describes herself as being extremely happy. She does, though, have frequent conflicts with her mother. Jenna rails against her mother for drinking so heavily and for not taking a more active role in Melvin’s life.

9. As noted in chapter 14, the follow-up study does not include school observations or interviews with educators. Thus, we only have one piece of the story here. Still, Harold did not have a history of behavior problems in school, and he reported that he was flabbergasted that the teacher proposed

suspending him. He said, "I never had problems." But he felt that the teacher "didn't like" him and that were often conflicts over "real picky little things." When she announced the suspension to him, his reaction was "Like, are you serious?"