

Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal

Name: _____

Directed by Chris Smith – Written by Jon Karmen

1. How are **SHORT VIDEO clips** and **AUDIO clips** specifically used in the beginning of this film? What kinds of things are accentuated or amplified?
2. **Acting and REENACTMENT?** WHO is **Mathew Modine** and how is re-enactment used in this film? How are reenactments used along *with* actual interviews? How do they work for you as a viewer of this documentary?
3. **WHO** are the types of **REAL PEOPLE** interviewed for this documentary? How are those interviews composed and lit?
4. According to the documentary, what kind of person was **Rick Singer**? How did he define “educational consultants?”
5. What are **side-door admissions**? How is it connected to The Key Worldwide?
6. **NARCISSISM**. How is the higher Education system in the U.S. connected to increasingly **narcissistic parents** and **children**?
7. **Prestige** what does it really mean and how is it connected to college rankings?
8. According to the film, what is the role of **TRUTH & LYING** in this current system of students, parents and Colleges?
9. **BACKGROUND** How is Rick Singer’s background represented in this film? How is coaching connected to Singer’s efforts as an educational consultant?
10. How are college athletics, coaching, and college administrators at the center of the admissions scandal? Who are some of the key people profiled here?

11. **SOCIAL MEDIA.** How is SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION at the center of DISAPPOINTMENT and the PROGRESSION of anxiety related to college admissions?

12. Who is **OLIVIA JADE** and why is she at the center of the scandal?

13. How is **STANDARDIZED EDUCATIONAL TESTING** (ACTs and SATs) and **ACCOMODATIONS** at the center of educational **INEQUALITY** in the US?

14. Who is **Mark Riddell**? **How** is he at the center of the ethical ignominy of this system?

15. **THE UNRAVELING.** How does Singer's system start to unravel? How unravelling of the conspiracy dramatically represented in the documentary?

16. **How is Vandemoer's case play out?** What happened to Stanford University?

17. **CONCLUSIONS?** What CONCLUSIONS are put forward at the end of the film?

18. **JUSTICE?** Has Justice been served to with regards to Rick Singer (...and any of the other members of these cases of conspiracy and racketeering)? Who has **NOT** been held accountable here?

19. **YOU?** How does this story and film make you feel? What does this film say to you as a **CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENT**? Explain.

20. **DOCUMENTARY FILM?** How does this style of documentary film production shape (or reshape) your notions of truth or reality in documentary presentation? Explain.