A College Analogy: Excitement vs. Anxiety

Don't "drive" yourself crazy!

If we told you that when you graduated from high school you were going to get a brand new car (may already be true!) you would most likely be very excited. But which one; an SUV, a sports car, a sedan, a convertible, an economy car? The ***only thing*** you have to do is first, a little soul searching, and second, a little research. What is the best fit for you? Big, small, safe, inexpensive, great sound system, side air bags, two seats, four seats, storage, red, white, lime green, will you be going off-road? Since you will be driving this car for four to five years with no trade-ins, let's be sure we find the right one. So take some time and THINK! Ask friends, look around, go to websites, order information packets, talk to dealers – be an information sponge! Since there are so may to choose from let's come up with a list of about ten that meet your preferences and objectives. Next rank the cars in terms of best overall "package". What seems to have the best fit? What makes sense for you for the next four years?

Once you rank your cars, you need go from information mode to test-drive mode. It is time to get serious. Go to the lot. Take it for a spin. Talk to the salespeople. Ask A LOT of questions. Once you get to this level of understanding you may begin changing your list. You may find out that the SUV you had your heart set on gets only ten miles to the gallon (and doesn't fit the budget). And do not stop the process just because the first car you drive, you "fall in love with". More often than not, it won't be the car you end up driving.

Also, please remember, it is your parents that "taught" you how to "drive" and most likely will be paying for this "car". Seek their insight and guidance ***first***. While you may know a great deal, your parents have been driving a lot longer than you and have the objectivity that you may not have. They probably know you better than you know yourself and more than anyone want to see you in the right car.

Remember, not too many people that get a new car are unhappy! So it is with college, the vast majority are happy wherever they end up. So turn the stress and anxiety into an exciting adventure! Yes, it may be that your first choice is not available, but remember you have nine other cars on the list and hundreds on the lot. And any one of those is a lot better than no car at all! Best of luck and **drive safely**!

Donnie & Ronnie