

What's Important to You?

Creating Questions for Your College Visits

An important aspect of planning your college visits is doing extensive research on each school, and creating a list of questions for an admissions officer or tour guide to answer while you're on campus. This sheet will help you think about and write your questions.

1) Number each factor in order of importance to you (with 1 being most important). If a factor you feel is applicable isn't listed, write it in using the blank spaces.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expenses | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Body | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Academics | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Extracurriculars | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Size | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Life | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selectivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

2) For each category, especially those that are your top three in terms of importance, write at least one question that is relevant to you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

3) Once you have your list of questions, do some research—check out school websites, or talk to friends and family who attend(ed) one of your top choices. Get names of students from your high school who attend those schools and reach out to them. Chances are you won't be able to find the answers to all your questions, or you may want a more elaborate answer for some. The questions that you cannot answer should be asked during your college visit or even your admissions interview.

4) Write or type your questions on separate sheets for each school. This is important as you may have different questions for each school. You'll also want to be organized when you arrive for your visit, because the day will be hectic and you'll want to optimize the time you have on campus.

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How Do Your Schools Stack Up?

Determining Which Schools Will Be a Good Fit

Using the order of importance you selected on the *What's Important to You?* worksheet, fill in the green boxes, starting from left to right, with the twelve factors for college selection. The factor most important to you should be on the far left and the least important factor should be on the far right.

Once you've completed that, use the research, notes and materials you gathered during your college visits to fill in the chart. For each school, **mark a plus sign if you liked what the school has to offer** in that area **and a minus sign if you did not**. **If you don't have a strong opinion, place a 0**.

After you've filled in the chart, tally the pluses and subtract the minuses to get a final score for each school. Not only will you have a quantitative tool to help you choose your top schools, you'll also have an easy-to-read visual chart to refer back to when you write your application essays. When you begin to compare schools that have the same score, look at where the pluses and minuses fall. If a school has more minuses to the left, then it doesn't measure up in the categories you care most about. In the example provided below, Gotham State and The Dylan School both score a 3, however Gotham State has a minus in the most important category. The Dylan School may be a better fit than Gotham State in this case.

College Name	Academics	Social Life	Expenses	Selectivity	Student Body	Location	Extra-curriculars	Size	TOTAL
Gotham State	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	3
Cohen College	+	+	-	+	+	0	+	+	6
US University	+	+	+	-	+	+	0	-	4
The Dylan School	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	3

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How Do Your Schools Stack Up?

Fill in the green boxes, starting from left to right, with the factors that are important to you. The most important should be on the far left and the least important should be on the far right. For each school, mark a plus sign if you liked what the school has to offer in that area and a minus sign if you did not. If you don't have a strong opinion, place a 0.

College Name												TOTAL

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