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SESSION 5: THE COLLEGE SEARCH AND APPLICATION PROCESS

PART ONE: CONTINUING THE COLLEGE SEARCH

ACTIVITY # 1:

BEGINNING THE SEARCH

Opening Discussion:

In Session II, “There is a College for Everybody,” students learned that there are more than 3,000 colleges and universities and there is more than one institution that can meet their needs. Building upon the questions discussed in “Charting Your Course for College,” students begin to personalize the search process, first by determining the questions to ask about what colleges can offer and, second, what they can convey to colleges through the application process.

Activity/Handout:

Activities Résumé (from Session IV)

College Counseling Questionnaire

Instructions:

1. Remind the students they are at the center of the search, so they need to make their own decisions and realize that the answers to questions are different for each student.
2. Hand out the “College Counseling Questionnaire” and ask them to complete it as honestly and fully as possible.
3. Then ask them to highlight the factors they think will be most important to them as they look for the “right match” college.

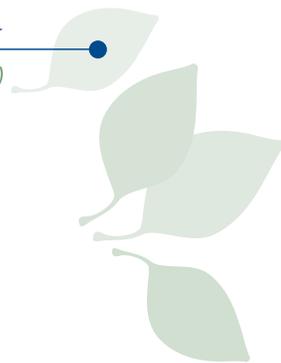
COLLEGE COUNSELING QUESTIONNAIRE

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ GPA: _____

In the space below, respond to the following questions. Your responses are for your personal information and college counseling only. Respond openly and honestly.

Location:

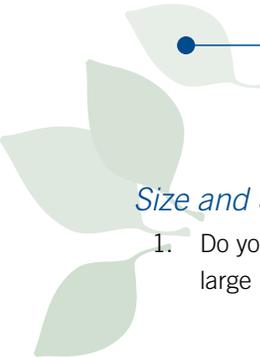
1. Do you have a specific location in mind for college (i.e., a specific city, state or region)?
2. Do you have any requirements in terms of location (i.e., warm/cold climate, near family, near the ski slopes)?
3. How far from/close to home is the ideal college (i.e., minutes away, an hour away, a day's drive, a plane flight)?
4. Do you prefer a city, a suburb or a small town?
5. Do you want your college to be near other colleges (in a college town)?
6. Do your parents have a certain location in mind?
7. Are you willing to consider locations you have not yet visited or do you prefer a location with which you are comfortable?



Academic Interests:

1. Do you have a specific career in mind? What college major do you think would best suit this profession?
2. What other academic areas do you hope to pursue in college?
3. Do you work better when you are challenged by tough classes and motivated classmates or when you are near the top of a less competitive group?
4. How hard do you work in high school?
5. How hard do you expect to work in college?
6. What types of academic programs would your like you ideal college to have (study abroad, internships, co-op, honors, etc.)?
7. Is it important that you attend a well-known college? Why?

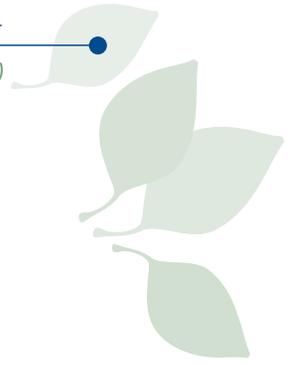
Adapted from Cabral, Joshua. "Addressing the Needs of First-Generation, College-Bound Students: A Comprehensive 5th–12th Grade Approach." *South Boston Harbor Academy Charter School*. 2004



Size and Student Body:

1. Do you prefer a small college (2,000 students or less), a mid-sized college (2,000–8,000), or a large university (more than 8,000 students)? Why?
2. Are you comfortable in small classes? Large classes? Why?
3. Do you prefer a college that is primarily for undergraduates or a college that has lots of graduate and doctoral students on campus?
4. Would you consider a single-sex college?
5. Do you prefer a college with a religious affiliation?
6. Is racial/ethnic diversity important to you?

Adapted from Cabral, Joshua. “Addressing the Needs of First-Generation, College-Bound Students: A Comprehensive 5th–12th Grade Approach.” *South Boston Harbor Academy Charter School*. 2004



Activities:

1. Do you plan to participate in sports at college?

2. What other extracurricular activities interest you?

Finances:

Will cost influence where you go to college? Will your family apply for financial aid? Do you think that you will qualify for merit scholarships (based on achievement)?

Admission Selectivity:

If 5 is the most selective (level of difficulty on gaining admission) and 1 is not at all selective, to which level of college do you expect to apply? Which do you think are likely to say yes?

Adapted from Cabral, Joshua. "Addressing the Needs of First-Generation, College-Bound Students: A Comprehensive 5th–12th Grade Approach." *South Boston Harbor Academy Charter School*. 2004