

College Exploration – Writing Prompts for Students

What to Ask On a College Campus Visit

Activity 1a: *(Note to facilitator: This can be done in a workshop format prior to campus visit, with Activity 1b as the post-visit follow up. Students can write each question on an index card, which you can collect. Bring the index cards with you on the campus tour and hand them back to the students. They should record the responses on the backs of the cards.)*

Next week, you will be visiting a college campus to help you plan for life after you pass your high school equivalency exam. Arriving at the tour with a goal for your visit will help you gather the right information while you're there, which will better prepare you to apply the information in the future.

To get the “right” information, it helps to have a set of questions to ask the college tour guide. Your questions should address topics, issues, concerns, or interests that are unique to you. For example, if you're interested in a specific major the college offers, you might want to know what courses you would take. If you're not sure what to major in, you might want to know if the college provides any academic counseling to help students discover interests. **In the space below, brainstorm at least five questions you'll ask on your campus visit.**

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Activity 1b: *(Note to facilitator: This writing activity is the follow up to a campus trip. Students will refer to their index cards for material. For students who were not in attendance, they can either go online (if logistics permit) and research the college, find one interesting fact, and then do the writing prompt, or, if computers aren't available, ask them to write a short narrative imagining themselves at college or post-graduation. What will they study or be doing? What will their life be like? How will they get to the place they envision? etc.)*

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.

Writing Prompt:

Look at the responses to the questions you asked on the campus trip/tour. Select one of the questions and write a short narrative that describes how the question/response will impact you as a college student. For example, if you asked a question about what sports the college offers, your narrative may describe how you envision yourself playing on that college team. Include details, such as how you might balance the sport with academics, or what types of goals you have for yourself as a college athlete.