# Jr. College Tour Project Packet

# Project Overview

*Description*

The Jr. College Tour Project is designed to guide students through consumer-based research of the five schools on the 2013 Junior College Tour. This intensive research project introduces elements of the Junior Spring College Portfolio*—*the college-fit analysis and research protocol—which scholars will continue to use over the next few months to develop their list of “best fit” colleges and accompanying College Portfolio products. The final product of this project can also be used in scholars’ College Portfolios, and is an important step in the creation of each scholar’s college list.

This project packet guides scholars through a three-part college research process: 1) Pre-tour Research and Prep, 2) On-campus Research, and 3) Post-tour Analysis and Reflection.

* Draft 1 (completed packet): Scholars will gather data, take notes, and write responses in this packet. Once completed, this packet will serve as the first draft of their project.
  + Draft 1 Due Dates (work done in this packet): Part 1-Wednesday, 3/13/13; Part 2-Immediately following each tour; Part 3 (without Conclusions)-Section A (Mon) 3/18, Section B (Tues) 3/19
* Final Project Product (completed template in Google/Word Doc): To create the final project product, scholars will transpose their first draft responses to a Google or MS Word Doc (template to be provided). Then, scholars will make their final revisions, reflections and conclusions.
  + Final Project Due Date (Google or MS Word document and Draft 1 paper packet): Friday, March 22

*2013 Junior College Tour Schools*

1. Springfield College
2. Boston College
3. College of the Holy Cross
4. Worcester Polytechnic Institute
5. Clark University

Project Elements and Aims

Part 1: Pre-tour Online Research & Prep (30 points)

Before the tour:

* SWBAT generate a list of questions to determine how college size, location, selectivity, and major will impact their personal college selection.
* SWBAT generate a list of 5-10 questions (that cannot be answered through online research) to ask a college student or representative (or a peer who visited the college) that may influence their decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college.
* Using provided college-fit analyses and research protocol templates, SWBAT conduct online research of the college tour schools to determine and document each school’s size, location, selectivity, and available majors of potential interest.
* Based on scholars’ online research findings, SWBAT to explain how the college size, location, selectivity, and major may impact their evaluation of each college that will be visited on the tour.

Part 2: On-campus Research (30 points)

During the tour:

* Building on prior online research, SWBAT conduct on-campus/in-person research as the basis for describing each school’s size, location, selectivity, and available majors of potential interest.

Part 3: Post-tour Analysis & Reflection (40 points)

After the tour:

* For each college on the tour, SWBAT conduct a college fit self-analysis of the size, location, selectivity, and major.
* SWBAT compare their pre- and post-tour college-fit analyses and impressions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Part 1: Pre-tour Research & Prep

College Fit Self-Analysis Questions

**Directions:** Write 2-3 questions for each college characteristic to determine how each will influence your choice of schools. [You may use your work from the L3.3 and 3.4 Exit Tickets.]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **College Characteristic** | **Questions to ask myself to determine how this college characteristic will influence my choice of schools.** |
| Size: |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Distance from Home |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Setting (Urban, Suburban, Rural) |  |
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| Areas of Study (majors) |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Selectivity |  |
|  |  |
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On-campus Questions to Ask

**Directions:** Write 5-10 questions (that cannot be answered through online research) to ask a college student or representative that may influence your decision of whether a school constitutes a best-fit college.

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Campus Terms to Know

**Four-year graduation rate:** Percentage of students who graduate within four years.

**Freshmen experience (program):** A program that is usually designed to help freshmen get acquainted with the resources, opportunities, and systems of a college. These programs vary greatly and not all schools have them.

**Learning community:** A group joined by students who are interested in a particular area of study. The idea of a learning community is to keep discussions and learning going beyond the classroom.

**Undergraduate:** Refers to a student working toward a Bachelor’s degree, or courses required for this degree.

**Graduate student:** Student who has already earned at least a Bachelor’s degree, and is working toward a *graduate degree* (i.e. Master’s, PhD, EdD).

**Teaching assistant:** Usually a graduate student who assists a professor in large classes and may also teach classes.

**Upper-division courses:** Advanced-level courses in a subject area; often required to complete a Bachelor’s degree; may refer to graduate-level courses

**Greek system:**  System of social clubs (sororities and fraternities) that interact on college campuses and are often joined by invitation only.

## Part 1: Pre-tour Research & Prep—Springfield College

**Online Research Synopsis #1: Springfield College**

**Directions:** Using the collegeboard.org website as your \*online source, research this college as guided below and complete all elements of this research synopsis(do not use other sources unless specified).

**Guided Notes**

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| College name: |  | |
| Admissibility Threshold:  (average GPA & SAT (range) of freshmen)  \*Collegeboard.org or the college’s website are both acceptable sources for this data. | GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | SAT: CR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Admission Rate (AR): | % applicants admitted | |
| CT State Public/CT Private/Out-of-State Private/Out-of-State Public: |  | |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Size  (# of undergraduates) | Location  (City, State) | Type  (Liberal arts, technical, research university, other) |
|  |  |  |

|  | Feature/Characteristic | Rationale (Why? In What way?) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Instructions | Describe key academic features/characteristics that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include selectivity and majors**. Others to consider: special programs (i.e. honors, 5-year dual degrees), and academic support. | **Note why and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| ACADEMICS | * This is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ selective school (i.e. less, somewhat, \_\_\_\_\_, very, or most) |  |
| * Majors of potential interest offered at this school: |  |
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| LOCATION | Describe key location features and characteristics of this college that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include distance from home, setting, and size**. Other aspects of location to consider include: weather and facilities. | **Note why** **and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| * Distance from home (miles, drive/train/flight time) = |  |
| * Setting is rural / suburban / urban. (circle one)   Setting details: |  |
| * # of undergraduates = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Seems to be a small / medium / large school. (circle one) |  |
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Part 1: Overall Pre-tour Impressions

**Source: Springfield College’s website www.spfldcol.edu**

“Tour” Springfield College’s website noting various *aspects* *of the school* (such as the college’s campus, students, faculty, student life, and academics). Then, describe your overall impression of the school based on photos and written information on the school website. In your response, cite website evidence of at least three different *aspects* *of the school* that give you this impression. (Use complete sentences.)

## Part 1: Pre-tour Research & Prep—Boston College (BC)

**Online Research Synopsis #2: Boston College**

**Directions:** Using the collegeboard.org website as your \*online source, research this college as guided below and complete all elements of this research synopsis(do not use other sources unless specified).

**Guided Notes**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| College name: |  | |
| Admissibility Threshold:  (average GPA & SAT (range) of freshmen)  \*Collegeboard.org or the college’s website are both acceptable sources for this data. | GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | SAT: CR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Admission Rate (AR): | % applicants admitted | |
| CT State Public/CT Private/Out-of-State Private/Out-of-State Public: |  | |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Size  (# of undergraduates) | Location  (City, State) | Type  (Liberal arts, technical, research university, other) |
|  |  |  |

|  | Feature/Characteristic | Rationale (Why? In What way?) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Instructions | Describe key academic features/characteristics that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include selectivity and majors**. Others to consider: special programs (i.e. honors, 5-year dual degrees), and academic support. | **Note why and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| ACADEMICS | * This is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ selective school (i.e. less, somewhat, \_\_\_\_\_, very, or most) |  |
| * Majors of potential interest offered at this school: |  |
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| LOCATION | Describe key location features and characteristics of this college that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include distance from home, setting, and size**. Other aspects of location to consider include: weather and facilities. | **Note why** **and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| * Distance from home (miles, drive/train/flight time) = |  |
| * Setting is rural / suburban / urban. (circle one)   Setting details: |  |
| * # of undergraduates = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Seems to be a small / medium / large school. (circle one) |  |
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Part 1: Overall Pre-tour Impressions

**Source: BC’s website www.bc.edu**

“Tour” Boston College’s website noting various *aspects* *of the school* (such as the college’s campus, students, faculty, student life, and academics). Then, describe your overall impression of the school based on photos and written information on the school website. In your response, cite website evidence of at least three different *aspects* *of the school* that give you this impression. (Use complete sentences.)

## Part 1: Pre-tour Research & Prep—College of the Holy Cross

**Online Research Synopsis #3: College of the Holy Cross**

**Directions:** Using the collegeboard.org website as your \*online source, research this college as guided below and complete all elements of this research synopsis(do not use other sources unless specified).

**Guided Notes**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| College name: |  | |
| Admissibility Threshold:  (average GPA & SAT (range) of freshmen)  \*Collegeboard.org or the college’s website are both acceptable sources for this data. | GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | SAT: CR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Admission Rate (AR): | % applicants admitted | |
| CT State Public/CT Private/Out-of-State Private/Out-of-State Public: |  | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Size  (# of undergraduates) | Location  (City, State) | Type  (Liberal arts, technical, research university, other) |
|  |  |  |

|  | Feature/Characteristic | Rationale (Why? In What way?) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Instructions | Describe key academic features/characteristics that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include selectivity and majors**. Others to consider: special programs (i.e. honors, 5-year dual degrees), and academic support. | **Note why and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| ACADEMICS | * This is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ selective school (i.e. less, somewhat, \_\_\_\_\_, very, or most) |  |
| * Majors of potential interest offered at this school: |  |
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| LOCATION | Describe key location features and characteristics of this college that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include distance from home, setting, and size**. Other aspects of location to consider include: weather and facilities. | **Note why** **and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| * Distance from home (miles, drive/train/flight time) = |  |
| * Setting is rural / suburban / urban. (circle one)   Setting details: |  |
| * # of undergraduates = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Seems to be a small / medium / large school. (circle one) |  |
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Part 1: Overall Pre-tour Impressions

**Source: College of the Holy Cross’ website www.holycross.edu**

“Tour” College of the Holy Cross’ website noting various *aspects* *of the school* (such as the college’s campus, students, faculty, student life, and academics). Then, describe your overall impression of the school based on photos and written information on the school website. In your response, cite website evidence of at least three different *aspects* *of the school* that give you this impression. (Use complete sentences.)

## Part 1: Pre-tour Research & Prep—Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

**Online Research Synopsis #4: Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

**Directions:** Using the collegeboard.org website as your \*online source, research this college as guided below and complete all elements of this research synopsis(do not use other sources unless specified).

**Guided Notes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| College name: |  | |
| Admissibility Threshold:  (average GPA & SAT (range) of freshmen)  \*Collegeboard.org or the college’s website are both acceptable sources for this data. | GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | SAT: CR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Admission Rate (AR): | % applicants admitted | |
| CT State Public/CT Private/Out-of-State Private/Out-of-State Public: |  | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Size  (# of undergraduates) | Location  (City, State) | Type  (Liberal arts, technical, research university, other) |
|  |  |  |

|  | Feature/Characteristic | Rationale (Why? In What way?) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Instructions | Describe key academic features/characteristics that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include selectivity and majors**. Others to consider: special programs (i.e. honors, 5-year dual degrees), and academic support. | **Note why and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| ACADEMICS | * This is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ selective school (i.e. less, somewhat, \_\_\_\_\_, very, or most) |  |
| * Majors of potential interest offered at this school: |  |
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| LOCATION | Describe key location features and characteristics of this college that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include distance from home, setting, and size**. Other aspects of location to consider include: weather and facilities. | **Note why** **and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| * Distance from home (miles, drive/train/flight time) = |  |
| * Setting is rural / suburban / urban. (circle one)   Setting details: |  |
| * # of undergraduates = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Seems to be a small / medium / large school. (circle one) |  |
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Part 1: Overall Pre-tour Impressions

**Source: WPI’s website www.wpi.edu**

“Tour” WPI’s website noting various *aspects* *of the school* (such as the college’s campus, students, faculty, student life, and academics). Then, describe your overall impression of the school based on photos and written information on the school website. In your response, cite website evidence of at least three different *aspects* *of the school* that give you this impression. (Use complete sentences.)

## Part 1: Pre-tour Research & Prep—Clark University

**Online Research Synopsis #5: Clark University**

**Directions:** Using the collegeboard.org website as your \*online source, research this college as guided below and complete all elements of this research synopsis(do not use other sources unless specified).

**Guided Notes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| College name: |  | |
| Admissibility Threshold:  (average GPA & SAT (range) of freshmen)  \*Collegeboard.org or the college’s website are both acceptable sources for this data. | GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | SAT: CR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Admission Rate (AR): | % applicants admitted | |
| CT State Public/CT Private/Out-of-State Private/Out-of-State Public: |  | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Size  (# of undergraduates) | Location  (City, State) | Type  (Liberal arts, technical, research university, other) |
|  |  |  |

|  | Feature/Characteristic | Rationale (Why? In What way?) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Instructions | Describe key academic features/characteristics that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include selectivity and majors**. Others to consider: special programs (i.e. honors, 5-year dual degrees), and academic support. | **Note why and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| ACADEMICS | * This is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ selective school (i.e. less, somewhat, \_\_\_\_\_, very, or most) |  |
| * Majors of potential interest offered at this school: |  |
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| LOCATION | Describe key location features and characteristics of this college that may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. These **must include distance from home, setting, and size**. Other aspects of location to consider include: weather and facilities. | **Note why** **and in what way** each feature/characteristic may influence your decision of whether this constitutes a best-fit college for you. |
| * Distance from home (miles, drive/train/flight time) = |  |
| * Setting is rural / suburban / urban. (circle one)   Setting details: |  |
| * # of undergraduates = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Seems to be a small / medium / large school. (circle one) |  |
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Part 1: Overall Pre-tour Impressions

**Source: Clark University’s website www.clarku.edu**

“Tour” Clark University’s website noting various *aspects* *of the school* (such as the college’s campus, students, faculty, student life, and academics). Then, describe your overall impression of the school based on photos and written information on the school website. In your response, cite website evidence of at least three different *aspects* *of the school* that give you this impression. (Use complete sentences.)

## Part 2: On-campus Research—Springfield College

**On-campus Research Synopsis #1: Springfield College**

**Directions:** During this college visit, conduct your on-campus research as guided below, and document your observations and findings.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Information Session Takeaways** | |
| Positive (what you heard that you liked) | Negative/△ (concerns you have) |
| *Consider size, location, selectivity, major, and other aspects.* | |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **General Observations During the Tour** | |
| Positive (what you liked) | Negative/△ (what you didn’t like) |
| *Consider size, location, selectivity, major, and other aspects.* | |
|  |  |

## Part 3: Post-tour Analysis & Reflection—Springfield College

Essential Questions for Analysis

|  | *A. What am I looking for in a college?*  Write three additional questions to determine what you are looking for in a college. | *B. My Best-Fit Features/ Characteristics*  Respond to each question in Column A to determine features/characteristics of your best-fit college. | *C. Does this college offer what I am looking for?*  Compare your research findings for this college to your best-fit features/characteristics in column B. Write what this college offers that fits and what doesn’t fit. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ACADEMIC (major & selectivity) | * What do I need academically in a college in order to feel equipped for success? |  |  |
| * Given the selectivity (AR and admissions thresholds), is this school a good academic fit for me? Would I thrive and learn, feel overwhelmed, or be bored? |  |  |
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| LOCATION  (size, distance from home, & setting) | * What transportation options would be available to get home? Cost? Time? |  |  |
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## Conclusions

{250 words or more} Could this college be a good fit for you based on your analysis so far? Provide your rationale (include relevant research findings).

What other information and/or experience would help you to decide whether or not this school is a best fit?