

Importance of College Fairs, Rep Visits, & College Tours

This lesson is designed to help students understand the benefits associated with college fairs, rep visits, and college tours and how they can be utilized in the college application process.

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

1. Learn about college fairs, rep visits, and college tours
2. Utilize MEFA Pathway's *Explore Colleges* section to create a list of colleges in which they are interested
3. Take virtual tours and interact with college reps through colleges' webpages
4. Learn about the importance of interacting with colleges to show demonstrated interest

ACTIVITIES

PART 1

Content Knowledge

College fairs, rep visits, and college tours serve as great resources for students to interact with colleges. Therefore, it is important for students to understand the purpose of each and be prepared prior to taking part in them.

Pre-reading for activity

Students should read MEFA's blog post, [Why Demonstrated Interest in College Admissions Matters](#) to understand ways they can interact with colleges and how these interactions shape the college admissions process.

In-class activity

Have a short discussion with students on college fairs, rep visits, and college tours using the information below. Make sure to highlight the timeline of each.

- **College Fairs:** College fairs are a great way to learn about many schools in one place. Check out [NACAC](#), or [NEACAC](#), or the [College Fair Guide](#) to learn more.
- **Rep Visits:** Many schools offer virtual or in-person visits to help students connect with a rep. Encourage students to check with their guidance office and utilize each college's admissions webpage and social media to find out how to sign up for rep visits.

Grade Level: 10

MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:

- Explore Colleges
- Match Me
- My Colleges
- My Journal

DOMAIN:

- College & Career Exploration

TIME:

- 45 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
- Blog Post: [Why Demonstrated Interest in College Admissions Matters](#)

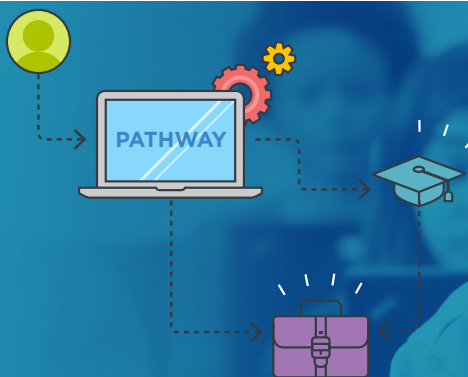
FUTURE READY SKILLS:

- Communication
- Networking

VOCABULARY:

- College Fairs
- Rep Visits
- College Tours
- College Search

Email any questions to:
k12support@mefa.org



LESSON PLAN

- **College Tours:** Many colleges offer virtual (through their school website or YouTube channel) campus tours, which are a quick and safe way for students to tour colleges. Colleges also offer in-person tours for students and their families. Students should ask colleges about their options for college tours.

PART 2

Applying Information

Students should log in to MEFA Pathway and navigate to the *Search Colleges* tab to complete the following exercise:

Step 1: Students should click on *Match Me* under the *Explore Colleges* tab. This activity will ask students a series of common questions associated with the college research process to generate a list of colleges that best fit their preferences.

Step 2: From the list of colleges that students generate in Step 1, students should pick three schools that they want to explore.

PART 3

Evaluating Information

Students should explore the MEFA Pathway profile of the three colleges they selected in Part 2. Students should navigate to the *Contact* section at the bottom of the page and click on the link to each school's admissions website. On each school's website, students should take a virtual tour, if available. Students should find out if any of the colleges they selected will be at their high school for a rep visit and, if so, schedule a time to meet with the rep.

If students are attending a college fair, they should make a note to connect with the three colleges they researched at the fair if those colleges are present.

PART 4

Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Students should navigate to the *My Journal* section of MEFA Pathway under the *About Me* tab and create a new journal entry reflecting on their experience on the virtual tour, college fair, or visit with the college rep. How were these interactive experiences helpful in their college admissions process? How do they plan to use this lesson as they continue to explore colleges at fairs, with rep visits, and on college tours?

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Importance of College Fairs, Rep Visits, & College Tours Grading Rubric

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CATEGORY	EXCELLENT 4	GOOD 3	SATISFACTORY 2	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 1
Sequencing of Information	The information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Most information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Some information is logically sequenced.	There is no clear plan for the organization of information.
Effectiveness	The entry includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topic.	The entry is lacking one or two key elements.	The entry is missing more than two key elements.	The entry is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Font Choice & Formatting	Font formats (size, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formats have been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
Conventions. Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	The entry has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	The entry has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	The entry has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	The entry has more than 2 grammatical and/or spelling errors.