

# Learning the Importance of College Fairs, Rep Visits, & College Tours

**Grade Level:**

10

**Domain:**

College &amp; Career Exploration

**TIME:**

45 Minutes

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 *Match Me* activity 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.

## MEFA Pathway Activities

- Match Me
- My Colleges
- My Journal

## Materials Needed

- Internet connection
- MEFA's article, [Why Demonstrated Interest in College Admissions Matters](#)

## Lesson Prerequisite

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 one and be prepared prior to taking part in them.

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

## Vocabulary

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

## Future Ready Skills

- Communication
- Networking

## PART 1

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### CONTENT KNOWLEDGE



#### 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 college representative. 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.
- **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 explore on college websites the different options for college tours.

## PART 2

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### APPLYING INFORMATION

Students should log in to MEFA Pathway and click on **Match Me** under the *Explore Colleges* tab. The 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.

From the resulting list of colleges, students should pick three schools that they want to explore by clicking **SAVE TO LIST** in the green box next to each college's name, which will save the school to their **My Colleges** list.

## PART 3

### EVALUATING INFORMATION

Students should explore the MEFA Pathway profile of the three colleges they selected in Part 2 by clicking on **My Colleges** under the *Explore Colleges* tab and then clicking on each college name. Students should navigate to the Contact section at the bottom of each college's page and click on the link to the 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 click on **My Journal** under the *About Me* tab and create a new journal entry reflecting on their experience on the virtual tour, college fair, and/or visit with the college rep. They should answer these questions:

1. How were these interactive experiences helpful in their college admissions process?
2. How do they plan to use this lesson as they continue to explore colleges at fairs, during rep visits, and on college tours?

# GRADING RUBRIC FOR JOURNAL ENTRIES

Category	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
	4	3	2	1
<b>Description</b>	Offers a vivid, detailed, and insightful description of the experience, setting the stage for deeper reflection.	Provides a clear and detailed account of the experience, including relevant details.	Clearly describes the experience, event, or learning.	Offers a limited description of the experience.
<b>Analysis</b>	Engages in critical thinking, questioning assumptions, and demonstrating a thorough understanding of the learning.	Connects the experience to personal learning and raises some insightful questions.	Attempts to analyze the experience but may lack depth or clarity.	Superficial analysis, lacking deeper thought.
<b>Future Application</b>	Formulates clear, actionable plans for utilizing new insights and knowledge in future learning and experiences	Identifies specific ways to apply the learning to future situations or goals.	Suggests some possible connections to future learning or practice.	Makes no clear connection to future learning/action.