



College Match Day Activity **Singled Out: College Edition**

Have you ever heard someone equate the college search process with dating and marriage? Students “meet” several colleges, discover what they like or don’t like, and ultimately commit to one. One of the first steps in both the college search and dating is to narrow the pool of potential options.

Singled Out is a dating show that first aired on MTV from 1995 to 1998 and was revived in 2018. In the show a blindfolded “picker” chooses a partner from the “dating pool” of 50 potential suitors. In the first round of play, they are presented with a set of possible categories, for which 2-3 choices are listed. When the Picker eliminates one of the choices, all members of the Dating Pool who fit that choice are also eliminated. The elimination continues until just 5-8 members of the Dating Pool remain.

It's just like a college search engine! Those start with the 4000+ colleges in the US, ask students to identify characteristics that matter to them, and narrows the pool of colleges to a more manageable number.

This activity uses the *Singled Out* gameplay to simulate a college search engine in an in-person, interactive opportunity to experience how a search engine uses students’ interests to sift through thousands of colleges and produce a manageable list to research further.

The activity requires a set of college cards. These can be prepared ahead of time, as a collection of cards for every college in a state. Or they can be created by students in the introductory **Identify Colleges & Research Facts Activity**.

It can be done as a classroom activity, with all students participating, or “on stage” in an auditorium, gym or other setting where a group of students “performs” while the majority of observe.

For best results, allow time following the activity for students to work individually on a computer or tablet and use a college search engine to develop a list of 20 or fewer colleges to research further.



Identify Colleges & Research Facts Activity



Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials needed

- White board or poster paper & writing utensil
- 30-50 College Information Worksheets
- Computers/tablets

Purpose

Generate a list of colleges and general facts about them that can be used in the **Singled Out: College Edition** activity. Students will identify colleges and universities that they are interested in exploring further. They will reflect on how the experience may help in their own college search process.

1. Identify colleges

Ask students to brainstorm as many colleges and universities as they can think of:

- Colleges in your state.
- Colleges someone they know attends/ed.
- College sports teams they like to watch.
- Other colleges and universities they know.

Ask a student to record responses on the board or poster paper. The goal for this portion of the activity is to develop an extensive list of colleges of a variety of types. That includes community colleges, public and private four-year colleges and universities, liberal arts and vocational/technical colleges, religiously affiliated schools, art schools, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Hispanic serving institutions (HSIs), single-gender colleges, etc.

If you notice that students haven't named colleges that fit into some of these categories or colleges that students in your school often apply to or attend, join the brainstorm to ensure that your list is inclusive. Remind students that there are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States. Therefore, your list won't be comprehensive, but encourage as large a list as your students can develop.

2. Research basic facts about colleges

Ask students to choose 1-2 colleges to research. Colleges should not be duplicated. Give students a worksheet for each college they choose. They should use the internet (or other resources you may have) to complete it. Collect the pages to use in the **Singled Out: College Edition** activity.



Materials needed

- Set of college information cards
- College preference cards (see pages 5-13)
- Computers/tablets

Purpose

Demonstrate how a college search engine helps narrow a large group of colleges into a manageable list of potential options. Students will use a search engine to develop a college list to research further.

1. Play the game

(play 2-3 rounds to show how different preferences changes the final list)

Select 1 student to make the choices. This is the “Picker.” Give them a list of preference cards. They should look through the cards and put them in order of importance. For example, if the distance from home is most important to them, they should put that card on top.

Give 1 college information card to each participating student (in a classroom setting, give one to every student; in a larger setting, choose 30-40 students to participate “on stage”). This is the “Dating Pool.”

The Dating Pool stands in a group facing the Picker (or audience). Ask them to hold their cards so the Picker (or audience) can see the name of the college, and they can see the college facts on the back.

The Picker reads the statement on the front of their first preference card and then states which choice they prefer. They can choose to keep 1, 2, or all 3 of the selections. Remind them that making some choices is important because their goal is to find colleges that will be a good fit for them, and that requires having some ideas about what kind of environment or experience they want. The Dating Pool uses their college facts to determine if their college has the preferred characteristic(s) or not. Colleges that do not have the preferred characteristic(s) sit down (or leave the stage). The Picker continues to read statements and eliminate colleges until 6-10 remain.

**NOTE:**

It is possible that in one round, the remaining Dating Pool may be eliminated if none of the colleges meet the criteria. If this happens, encourage the Picker to return to a previous card and re-consider their choices. They may then invite the colleges eliminated during that round back to the game.

The remaining colleges in the Dating Pool read their fun fact, and the Picker decides if they like the fun fact or not. If they do, the college remains. If they don't, the college is eliminated.

The final remaining colleges are the student's College List.

2. Debrief the game

The game doesn't offer an opportunity for the Picker to select all of the things that might be important to a student when researching colleges. Ask students for examples of other characteristics that are important to them.

Answers may vary and all are valid. Be sure, though, that things like academic programs and cost are on the list.

3. Create a college list

Students use an online search engine to develop a list of colleges that meet their preferred criteria. All search engines are slightly different, and none will perfectly match the language of the game. Encourage students to look through the list of characteristics and preferences within the search engine they choose and identify the ones that are most important to them first. Then ask them to make a list of other characteristics that matter to them but may not be in the search engine. Then students should use the search engine to narrow the 4000+ colleges in the country to a list of about 15-20. At that point, encourage them to look up the information that was important to them but not included in the search engine. Keep or eliminate colleges as appropriate. The goal is to end with a list of 6-10 colleges.

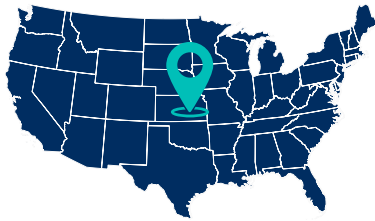
Recommended search engines include: Encourage, Big Future, Naviance



Sample College Information Card

[College or University Logo Goes Here]

FOLD LINE



[Location of school X, Y]

This area is:

[Suburb, town, or the country]

Number of students:

Answer

This is a:

[Public or Private School]

Is this a religious college?

[Yes or No]

[NAME OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY]

What degrees can I earn?

- ☐ Certificate or License
- ☐ Associates or 2 year degree
- ☐ Bachelors or 4 year degree

Can students live on campus?

Answer

Can I participate in ...

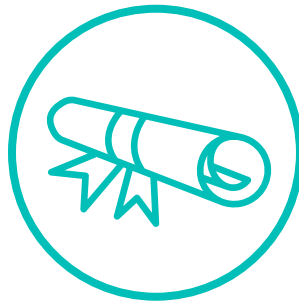
- ☐ Fraternities or sororities?
- ☐ Cheering on the big team?

FUN FACT

Some fun fact about this location will be placed here and should allow for at three lines of text for the longer, more fun facts.

What kind of degree
do you want to earn?

DEGREES OFFERED



FOLD LINE

1

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE

Bachelors
Associates
Certificate or License.

2

INFORM

Tell all the colleges that do not
offer the kind of degree you want
to sit down (or leave the stage).

Do you want to live at home
when you are in college?

DISTANCE FROM HOME

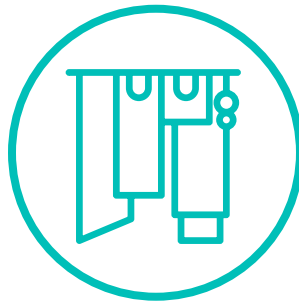


FOLD LINE

- 1 YES**
If yes, tell colleges that are more than an hour drive to sit down (or leave the stage).
- 2 NO**
If no, all colleges can remain on standing (or on stage).

What type of community do you
want to live in during college?

LOCATION



FOLD LINE

1 CHOOSE ONE OR MORE

In big city
Near a city but not in it
In a rural area.

2 INFORM

Tell all the colleges that are not located
in the types of communities you chose
to sit down (or leave the stage).

How big do you want the college to be?

SIZE



FOLD LINE

- 1 CHOOSE ONE OR MORE**
Less than 2,000 students
2,000-5,000 students
More than 5,000 students

- 2 INFORM**
Tell all the colleges that don't
fit the population you chose to
sit down (or leave the stage).

Do you want to attend a
minority serving institution?

DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS



FOLD LINE

1 IF YES, WHICH TYPE?

Historically Black College or University
Hispanic Serving Institution
Tribal College or University

2

INFORM

If you only want to attend one of these types of colleges, tell all colleges that are not the type of minority serving institution you want to sit down (or leave the stage).

Do you want to attend a religious college?

RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS



FOLD LINE

- 1 IF YES**
Ask all non-religious colleges to sit down (or leave the stage).
- 2 IF NO**
If you are not open to attending a religious college, ask all religious colleges to sit down (or leave the stage).

Is it important to you to be a
part of a fraternity or sorority?

SOCIAL LIFE



FOLD LINE

1 IF YES

If this is important to you, ask all colleges that do not have fraternities and sororities to sit down (or leave the stage).

Do you want to be able to watch
the big games with your friends?

ATHLETICS



FOLD LINE

1 IF YES

If being a fan of a big sports program is important to you, tell the colleges that do not have a big sports program to sit down (or leave the stage).

2 IF NO

If this is not important to you, all colleges can remain.