



How to Choose a College Major

Activity: "This or That"



Sponsored by:
LifeSmarts
Learn it. Live it.

Lesson Objective: This interactive icebreaker activity is designed to encourage students to explore their personal preferences when choosing a college/university, and in turn, a major of study. From campus size to academic focus and extracurricular interests, there is a lot to consider.

Instructions: Teacher/coach should begin by clearing a space in the room or even going outside or into the gym. Use masking tape, painter's tape, or even colored paper to make a long dividing line in the middle of the space. You will proceed to read off a list of questions giving students only two options. If they choose the first option they should stand on one side of the tape. If they prefer the second option they should stand on the other side, hence the activity name - "This or That." Through this activity, students will not only gain a better understanding of their personal preferences but also discover shared interests with fellow students, potentially fostering new friendships. Following is the list of "This or That" questions. Feel free to add a few of your own, or take a moment to discuss any surprising responses.

Questions:

1. Do you prefer a warm climate or cold climate for your college campus?
2. Urban campuses or rural ones?
3. Large university or a smaller, close-knit college?
4. Close to home or far away?
5. Diverse student body or more homogeneous population?
6. A college known for its sports programs or its academic excellence?
7. A college with a rich history and traditions, or a newer innovative institution?
8. A tight-knit community or a more independent experience?
9. Colleges with a religious affiliation or secular institutions?
10. A strong focus on the arts, or a STEM-centric curriculum?
11. Liberal arts college with lots of options or a specialized technical or trade school?
12. Active social scene or a quieter, more studious environment?
13. Flexible class schedules or a more structured academic calendar?
14. Competitive admissions process or rolling admissions?
15. Coastal area or mountains?
16. Small classes or large lecture halls?
17. Classes in-person or online?