



# AOBT College Quest Project

## University MLA Research Paper Requirements



### Objectives:

- Practice technical writing skills
- Practice MLA citation
- Investigate relevant aspects of colleges and universities

**Research Paper Requirements:** You will work with a team to research selected colleges and universities in central and southern California. You and your team will select individual colleges, investigate programs, demographics, admissions data, and other aspects of each, and then use your findings to plan and prepare a road trip in which the class visits up the colleges. For the research paper, you will then choose one of the colleges that your team investigates and you will write a research report on that college that provides an accurate portrait of that institution.

### Official MLA Format

- Your paper must 2-3 pages in length
- Your paper must be typed in formal essay format (Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced, 1" margins)
- You will do an outline and a final draft. Both must be typed.
- You must include a Work Cited Page and cite any quotes or paraphrases from your research.
- You will be selecting your university by first, second, third choice so that you do not overlap with other groups.

**Paper should contain minimum 6 paragraphs addressing the following info in this order:**

### INTRODUCTION:

- University Name
- What is this university known for? What is its reputation?
- **THESIS:** Why should a student want to attend this university?

### TOPICS TO GUIDE YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS:

#### TOPIC A: History, Demographics, and Location:

- Background: How long has the university been around? When & why was it established? Is it named for someone?
- What is the total enrollment for the university?
- Particular strengths of this college?
- Demographics of student body: What is the ethnic make-up of the student body? Gender? Income of students? How many get financial aid?
- Where is this university located? Describe the surrounding area.
- Average time to complete degree?
- What is the ration of professors to students at this university?



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### TOPIC B: Admissions Process:

- How does the college calculate your eligibility index?
- What is the average incoming freshman GPA? What is the average incoming SAT/ACT scores?
- How many students apply each year and how many are admitted each year (acceptance rate?)

### TOPIC C: Finances:

- How much is annual tuition/ registration fees for this university?
- How much is food and housing to live on with parents, on campus, or off campus ?
- How much are books and supplies?
- Transportation costs?
- Miscellaneous costs?

### TOPIC D: Undergraduate Programs & Activities:

- What are the top five majors (based on enrollment of declared majors) at this university?
- What other programs make this university attractive? (sports, Greek life, clubs, travel abroad?)
- What other interesting tidbits can you give about the school?

### CONCLUSION:

- Summary of university (2-3) sentences + evaluation of whether you would want to attend this university.

### Final Check

- Is the paper proofread so that it has NO mechanical errors?
- Is the paper in the appropriate MLA format?
- Is the paper at least 2 pages long?
- Is the paper well organized with paragraph breaks that group information by topic?
- Does paper thoroughly and clearly answer the research question posed?
- Does paper have a properly cited Works Cited Page?