

## My Future Alma Mater: College Research (7.3)

*Part of the My Future Alma Mater Series (7.3 – 7.4)*

**Goal: Students will conduct guided research of a college of their choice in order to create an informational poster to share their findings with their classmates.**

### Lesson Time Options

This lesson is part of the My Future Alma Mater Series (Lessons 7.3 and 7.4) and will require approximately two 45-60 minute class periods. The series requires a total of approximately three 45-60 minute class periods. These periods may be divided up as necessary according to teacher preferences and restrictions.

### Student Materials

- Chromebook/Laptop
- Internet Access
- Worksheet
- Poster paper (8½ x 11" is acceptable)

### In This Packet

This packet includes everything you need to complete the lesson.

- Educator Guide
- Student Worksheet

### Standards

The literacy skills of Common Core can be broken down into sections – reading, writing, and speaking and listening (language skills are outside of the focus of CaliforniaColleges.edu). In the lesson, students will practice the following skills:

Common Core Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Reading for Information	CCR-Reading 1, 2, 6, 7; Reading Information – 1, 2, 6, 7
Argument Writing	CCR-Writing 2, 4, 7, 8, 9; Writing – 2, 4, 7, 8, 9

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

Students in today's classrooms are learning not only academic skills and content, but how to be productive members of global communities. There are work habits, experiences, and skills that students need to develop to be ready for higher education and careers.

21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Critical Thinking	X
Digital Literacy	X
Internet Research	X
Citations	X

## My Future Alma Mater: College Research: Educator Guide

**Goal: Students will conduct guided research of a college of their choice in order to create an informational poster to share their findings with their classmates.**

### Recommended Preparation

- Review the **Student Worksheets** for all lessons in the series (7.3 – 7.4). The worksheets provide clear instructions for students to complete each lesson. Determine how you will complete the series and use each worksheet.

### Getting Started

- You may print the **Student Worksheet** for students or embed the link in the materials you share with students.

### Guiding Question

What can we learn about a college from its general profile?

### Bell Work (5 minutes)

- Have students sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and navigate to **My College Plan**.
- Ask students to use the **Search Colleges** function to add any colleges to **My Plan** that they have learned about since their last visit to the platform. You may need to explain that students need to type the name of any college into the box and click **Search**.

### Introduction (10 minutes)

- Tell students they will be completing a research project on the college of their choice. It will include a day of research, a day of poster creation, and a day of learning about other schools (change this as necessary for your own timeline).
- Have students select a school to research. This can be a school they know little about but may be interested in attending.
- Keep a list of which colleges have been selected – random selection or first come, first served. If a student wanted to research UC Irvine, but that has already been taken, encourage them to investigate a similar school, such as UC San Diego or Cal Poly Pomona.

### Activity (30 minutes)

1. Students will complete their research and answer all questions on the worksheet using **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and the college's own website.
2. Remind students how to use the "search" box on these websites using keywords taken from the worksheet.
3. Remind students to summarize (not plagiarize).
4. Review the requirements for the poster and allow students to begin working.

**ALLOW A DAY OF POSTER CREATION BEFORE BEGINNING LESSON 7.4**

### Reflection (5-10 minutes)

- Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt indicated in the student worksheet (*prompt #11: "What was the most interesting thing you learned about your college? Are you still interested in attending this college? What makes this college a good or bad choice for you?"*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
- Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Plan**.

# My Future Alma Mater: College Research: Student Worksheet

**Goal:** You will conduct guided research of a college of your choice in order to create an informational poster to share your findings with your classmates.

## Part I: Introduction – Bell Work

- Sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.
- Go to **My Plan** at the top of the page, hover on the text, then select **My College Plan**. Review your **College List**. You should have colleges there if you have done college exploration on CaliforniaColleges.edu.
- If you do not have any colleges on your list and/or your teacher instructs you to do so, continue your exploration by using the **College Search Tool**. Go to **College** at the top of the page, hover on the text, then select **College Search Tool**.
- Use any one of the filters to find more colleges. You can sort your list by using the “Sort By” menu on the far right.
- Select one college from your list to research more deeply and click on the ♥ to save it to **My Plan**. You should choose a college you do not already know well.

Now,

- Confirm your college choice for your research project with your teacher to receive their approval.

## Part II: Activity

1. Begin researching your college. Answer all questions on the worksheet found on the next page called *College Research: Information Gathering*. Begin by reviewing the college factsheet on **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Go to your **My College Plan** and click on the name of your selected college to view the factsheet.
2. You will need to go to the college’s website to answer some of the questions. When you get to the college’s website, the quickest route to find the information you need is to use the search box.
3. When you write out your findings, summarize using your own words.
4. Begin construction of your poster. Guidelines for your poster:
  - Create a poster that displays your school using the information you discovered in your research. Be sure to summarize your findings and write legibly on the poster.
  - Your poster should include illustrations of the following: the college logo, seal, and/or mascot. Your poster should highlight your chosen school’s official colors.

## College Research Project: Information Gathering

Question	Answer and Reflection
What is the name of the college?	
In what year was it founded?	
Where is it located?	
What is the total student population?	
How much does it cost to attend the college? Distinguish between tuition/fees and room/board and other living expenses.	
What is the mascot? What are the official colors?	
What is the college's Mission Statement?	
What are the student housing options?	
What are the most popular majors and academic programs?	
What activities can you participate in at the college?	
What did you learn about the college's traditions?	

### Part III: Reflect

- Go to **My Journal**, and in the **College Journal** section find **prompt #11**:  
*“What was the most interesting thing you learned about your college? Are you still interested in attending this college? What makes this college a good or bad choice for you?”*
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.