

Corsava Card Activities

There's no right way to use Corsava cards. What follows are a few suggestions for different ways you and your family might use the cards to spark conversations about the college search process. We encourage you to get creative and have fun with this process!

United Front

Hard Copy Version:

1. Open the two decks of cards.
2. Place the four choice cards - Must Have, Would Be Nice, Do Not Care, and No Way - face up at the top of a table or workspace, ideally with a few inches between them. Each of the four choice cards represents the strength of a student's preferences.
3. Give your student the remaining cards, which reflect elements of campus culture, academic life, and other college characteristics. Ask the student to place each card under the choice card that best reflects their emotional preference for that particular characteristic.
4. Encourage your student to ask questions and talk through their thought process as they sort the cards.
5. This is about your student's college preferences, not yours. Be curious about their preferences and try to avoid influencing them. For more tips see [Step 2: Card Sort Conversations](#)
6. As you all move through the college process, preferences may shift. Pull the deck out again, do another sort, talk about what's changed and why.

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Online Version:

1. Have your student log in to their Corsava account.
2. Either sit together, viewing the same screen or, if you are not in the same location, use an online meeting platform that allows for screen sharing and have your student share their screen.
3. Your student should start a new card sort.
4. The cards will be presented in a random order. Encourage your student to ask questions and talk through their thought process as they record their preferences for each characteristic.
5. Again, this is about your student's college preferences, not yours. Resist the urge to take over the mouse, keyboard, etc. - let your student lead the way.
6. Your student can edit their preferences at any time, either by editing this card sort or doing a completely new sort. As they explore their options, they will likely discover some characteristics matter more or less to them than they originally thought. Keep the conversation open by checking in often.

Double Blind

This activity is easiest if you are using the online platform.

1. Your student completes their online card sort. For additional information, see [Card Sort Overview](#).
2. You complete your own card sort, separately. For additional information, see [Step 1: The Card Sort](#).
3. Swap reports. Printing out hard copies of your respective reports makes swapping and reviewing relatively easy.
4. Come together to talk over the similarities and differences between your priorities.
5. For more tips see [Step 2: Card Sort Conversations](#).

Card Sort Activities

Characteristic Exploration

Many of the characteristics we ask students to consider are unfamiliar to them; some may be unfamiliar to you too. This is a chance to build college going vocabulary - for yourself and your student!

1. Sort the cards into piles by category: **Academics**, **Campus Culture**, **Educational Culture**, **Extracurricular Activities**, **Residential Life**, and **Student Resources**.
2. Review the cards in each category and set aside any whose definition you and/or your student are uncertain of.
3. A full list of Corsava Card definitions can be found [here](#). Take a look at the ones that stumped you and your student.

This or That?

This is similar to a matching activity, but you are looking for things that don't quite match instead. Excellent for thinking through how factors interact in order to produce the best fit environment for your student.

1. Sort the cards into piles by category: **Academics**, **Campus Culture**, **Educational Culture**, **Extracurricular Activities**, **Residential Life**, and **Student Resources**.
2. Set the **Academics** pile aside for now.
3. Working with one category at a time, work together to match up "either or" cards. For example: Small College, Medium College, and Large College.
4. Talk about the pros and cons of the different options within a pair or group.
5. Ask your student to try to articulate "this" or "that" as their stronger preference. If they have no strong preference, those cards belong in the Do Not Care pile.
6. While some groupings may be mutually exclusive, others may simply be rare combinations (like Sunshine and Snow). If they all stay in Must Have, campuses with both/all may be few. That's okay!
7. Repeat the process, but think across categories. For example: Small College and Big Time Athletics. Or Large College and Small Classes.