

Step 2: Card Sort Conversations

Card Sorts are complete!

You and your student have completed one or more of Corsava's **Card Sort Activities**. Now it's time to dig deeper and talk about the results.

Some tips for keeping these conversations productive:

1. The most successful transitions to college entail a student taking ownership of the process and parents walking alongside, offering support and guidance without taking over. Whenever possible, let your student lead the conversation.
2. Celebrate the common ground. Adolescence is full of conflict (right?), take the time to celebrate the characteristics everyone agrees on.
3. Curiosity reigns supreme - are you surprised by any of your student's Must Have preferences? Aim to ask neutral questions to better understand their choices, especially if they differ from what you expected.
4. Don't focus on reaching consensus or closure. This dialogue will be ongoing. As the conversation continues and college research progresses, both you and your student are likely to have some priority shifts. Enjoy learning about each other, with each other.
5. Be open to truly hearing what your student is saying they want and need. This is their college experience, not yours.

Some questions to get the conversations started (not an exhaustive list!):

1. Regarding Must Haves:
 - a. Can you tell me about why you chose [insert card title here]?
 - b. If you spot cards that appear to conflict with one another (ex: Rural College & Urban College or One of a Crowd & Big Fish in a Little Pond), ask your student to talk through why they chose each card and help them see why one may exclude the other.
2. Regarding No Ways: What about [insert card title here] does not appeal to you?
3. Were there any cards you struggled to place? How did you decide where to put them?

Some reflections to share:

1. Think back to when you were in high school and what your post-secondary decision process was like. Share with your student your memories from this time. What was exciting for you? What was disappointing? How did your decisions then lead to where you are now?
2. Looking back on your own post-secondary experiences, finish this sentence: "I wish I had..."
3. Encourage your student to talk to other trusted adults (extended family, friends, coaches, teachers, mentors, etc.) about their post-secondary experiences.

Now what?

Check out **Getting the Most Out of Corsava** and **After Your Card Sort** for next steps, college research tips and online resources.