

Write or find the goals of your institution (they are usually in something called a mission statement). If you are creating your own institution, brainstorm a few institutions that exist that are similar or have characteristics you would like in your institution - take a look at their mission statements.

For example, Tufts mission statement:

“Tufts is a student-centered research university dedicated to the creation and application of knowledge. We are committed to providing transformational experiences for students and faculty in an inclusive and collaborative environment where creative scholars generate bold ideas, innovate in the face of complex challenges and distinguish themselves as active citizens of the world.”

Another example, Harvard:

“The mission of Harvard College is to educate the citizens and citizen-leaders for our society. We do this through our commitment to the transformative power of a liberal arts and sciences education. Beginning in the classroom with exposure to new ideas, new ways of understanding, and new ways of knowing, students embark on a journey of intellectual transformation. Through a diverse living environment, where students live with people who are studying different topics, who come from different walks of life and have evolving identities, intellectual transformation is deepened and conditions for social transformation are created. From this we hope that students will begin to fashion their lives by gaining a sense of what they want to do with their gifts and talents, assessing their values and interests, and learning how they can best serve the world.”

Also, U Mass Amherst:

“The University of Massachusetts Amherst, the flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts, has a distinctive mission in the Commonwealth ... It is the only public research institution that offers a combination of high quality undergraduate education, outstanding graduate education, and internationally recognized research ... As the state’s land-grant campus, it has the responsibility to carry on programs around the state for the benefit of the citizenry and to maintain dynamic connections to communities across the state”

Look for any other information about admissions requirements that you see on their website.

Read [selection from Taxonomies](#)

Discuss:

- What philosophies are in-line with your institution?
- What are the priorities of your school based on the mission statement or goals of your institution? Teaching? Research? Leadership? Community betterment?
- What are the *order* of these priorities?
- How does your institution measure it’s success?
- Who is your institution trying to serve? Students? Public/community? Fields of research/knowledge? The world?
- What kind of characteristics would your institution want in it’s student body? Academics? Personal characteristics such as leadership, “follow through”, personal insight, ability to make an impression, moral character, social consciousness, etc?
- What questions do you have about promoting some of these priorities?

You might check out their annual report to see how they are measuring their success. Check out other annual reports to see if there are other ways to measure success that your institution might adopt.

Note: You don’t need to write up your discussion but you might write some notes to yourself since the priorities you set today will influence how you make decisions in the next few classes - make sure everyone is on the same page!