

11B 3.5 Academic Match

PHASE OVERVIEW

Pairs will identify the key components of match and fit so that they can research and select post-secondary pathways that are strong options for the mentee. An emphasis will be placed on academic match to ensure that students are not under-matching. Pairs will work together to create a list of 5-10 post-secondary options.



LESSON OBJECTIVE

SWBAT define the terms "safety," "target," "reach," and "undermatching" in relation to post-secondary programs.

PURPOSE

As students engage in the post-secondary search process, they may tend to either “dream big” or play it safe. According to the College Board, first-generation students are more likely to “undermatch.” This lesson pushes all students to both “dream big” and play it safe, in addition to finding schools that are in the middle of those two extremes.

AGENDA

5 min *Do Now: A Good Fit*

25 min *Finding My Academic Match/Trashball*

10 min *Mentor Connection*



KEY TAKEAWAY

I need a balanced list of safety, target and reach schools to give myself the best chance of being accepted into a college that is a good match for me.

FACILITATOR NOTES:

You will need a trash can/bin and a small ball or crumpled piece of paper, in the shape of a ball, for the trash ball activity. You may want to consider incentivizing the game with class prizes or privileges for the winning team.

Make sure to load the video before class to ensure that it can be played without any technical difficulties.

Please note, the selectivity chart does also feature the ACT. It is not called out directly in the video lesson because it is taken far less often by students.

MATERIALS: [3.5 Handout](#), [3.5 PowerPoint](#), [3.5 Video](#), trash can, small ball or a crumpled piece of paper in the shape of a ball

Do Now: A Good Fit		Notes
Students will reflect on the concept of fit factors and “strong fit.”		
Slide 2: 5 min	<p><i>Direct students to answer on their worksheet (3 min):</i></p> <p>Do you think Loyola is a good fit for Briana? Why or why not?</p> <p><i>Student Discussion (2 min)</i></p>	

Learn and Engage: My Academic Match/Trashball		Notes
Students will discuss the concept of safety, target and reach schools. They will be introduced to the concept of selectivity and “undermatching.”		
Slide 3: 1 min	<p><i>Have a student read the key takeaway:</i></p> <p>I need a balanced list of safety, target and reach schools to give myself the best chance of being accepted into a college that is a good match for me.</p>	
Slide 4: 6 min	<p>TALKING POINTS</p> <p>We are going to start class off by watching a video! We will be playing a game based on the information you learn in this video so make sure you pay attention!</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/693734876</p>	
Slide 5: 18 min	<p>TRASH BALL</p> <p>You will be split into two teams. Each team will receive one question to answer per round (8 rounds total). If your team answers correctly, a teammate can take a trash ball shot worth 1 point.</p> <p><i>You will need a trash can/bin and a small ball or crumpled piece of paper, in the shape of a ball, for the trash ball activity. You may want to consider incentivizing the game with class prizes or privileges for the winning team.</i></p>	
Slide 22: Mentor Connection	<p>TALKING POINTS</p> <p>Let’s write to our mentors!</p>	

Slide 23: Extend	<i>If you have additional time remaining, consider asking students what new information they have learned from their mentor's message.</i>	
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Mentor Connection

1. Respond to your mentor's message and share your high and low point for this week.

My high point is..., my low point is...

2. Share your target, safety and reach selectivity band with your mentor.

My target selectivity band is...

My safety selectivity band is...

My reach selectivity band is...

3. Ask your mentor to research and find at least one post-secondary option that connects with your fit factors.

Can you research colleges & other pathways that are a good fit for me?

<https://vimeo.com/693734876>



Mentee Connection

Overview:

This week in class, students reviewed the importance of applying to target, safety and reach schools.

- Safety schools are schools in which your mentee's GPA & SAT score are above the college's average.
- Target schools are schools in which your mentee's GPA & SAT score fall within the college's average.
- Reach schools are schools in which your mentee's GPA and SAT score are below the college's average.

We use the [selectivity chart](#) to determine students' reach, target and safety bands. All colleges will fall into one of these bands. Your mentee should have shared their safety, target and reach bands in this week's lesson.

In your response:

1. Share your high point and low point for the week.

2. Research and suggest at least one target college for your mentee.

Use the website [Big Future](#) to research. The filters, located at the top of the Big Future webpage, will allow you to find schools that meet your mentee's needs.

You should filter by your mentee's fit factors and target selectivity band (go to the "admissions" button to filter by selectivity band). If your mentee has not shared their target selectivity band, click on the "less selective" filter.

Make sure to include:

- The name of the option
- How it connects to their academic match (we recommend suggesting a target school)
- How it connects to your mentee's fit factors
- Something interesting about the option

CollegeBoard

BigFuture

Sign In

College Search

Search by college name

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Majors

Location

Type

Affordability

Campus Life

Credit

Admissions

← Filters

Find the Right Colleges for You

Use the filters to narrow your search and explore colleges.

3693 Colleges Found

Sort by

Alaska Bible College →

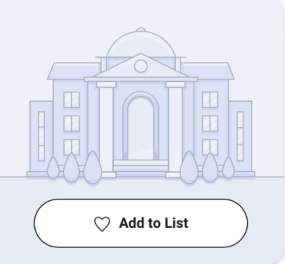
Palmer, AK

4-year • Private • Suburban

100% graduation rate


\$19K average per year after aid

SAT SAT score range not available



Add to List

American College Dublin →



Special notes on college research:

1. The financial fit tool on Big Future is not accurate. If your mentee is worried about affording college, you should primarily be recommending community colleges and 4 year in-state, state school.
2. If your mentee's target selectivity band is "very selective," suggest a school from this [Very Selective Colleges Guide](#) as opposed to using Big Future.