

How to Create a College Panel

Step 1: Recruit a Diverse Panel

Recruit a diverse panel of students who are currently enrolled in various types of colleges/postsecondary education institutions – four-year colleges/universities, two-year community colleges, U.S. military colleges, technical colleges and trade schools. Having at least one student from each type of school will ensure that all Club members can find value in the panel.

Step 2: Inform the Panel

Explain to the members that college students will be coming to their Club to talk to them and answer their questions about college. They will answer these questions about how they reached their goal to attend college.

Step 3: Review and Prepare Questions

Review what constitutes an appropriate question and the types of questions that are not appropriate to ask the panel. For example, ask “How many hours do you study?” or “What do you do for fun?” Instruct students to write two questions they would like to ask the college students. Give each student one index card and ask them to choose one of the two questions to write on the card.

Step 4: Introduce the Panel

When the college student panel arrives, ask the college students to introduce themselves and say what school they attend, what career/major they are pursuing and what they did in middle school and high school that helped them prepare for college.

Step 5: Q&A

Allow your students to ask questions. During the times when no one has a question, select a question from one of the index cards.

Step 6: Ask Panelists to Share

To close, ask the college students to share one thing with your members that they wish they had known when they were in middle school that would have better prepared them for high school and/or college.