



Summer Program Evaluation Tool

Objective: To assist students in deciding whether to participate in a pre-college summer program or create their own summer initiative by evaluating the potential benefits, costs, and alignment with personal goals.

Student Name: _____ **Academic**
Interests: _____

Section 1: Summer Program Details

- **Program Name:** _____
- **Location:** _____
- **Dates:** _____
- **Cost:** \$ _____
- **Program Type:** ☐ Academic ☐ Arts ☐ STEM ☐ Leadership ☐ Other: _____

Section 2: Academic and Skill Development

- **Courses or Workshops Offered:**
- Course 1: _____
- Course 2: _____
- **Academic Credit Offered:** ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If Yes, specify: _____
- **Skills You Aim to Develop:**
- Skill 1: _____

- Skill 2: _____
- **Alignment with Your Interests/Major:**
- How does this program align with your academic or career goals? _____

Rating (1-5): _____ (1 = Not Very Aligned, 5 = Highly Aligned)

Section 3: Exposure and Networking

- **Campus Exposure:**
- Will you stay on campus? [] Yes [] No
- Benefits of experiencing campus life: _____
- **Networking Opportunities:**
- Who might you meet (peers, professors, professionals)? _____
- **Alumni or Professional Connections:**
- Does the program offer access to networks post-program? [] Yes [] No
- Describe: _____

Rating (1-5): _____ (1 = Little Exposure, 5 = Significant Exposure)

Section 4: Impact on College Admissions

- **Resume/Profile Enhancement:**
- How will this program look on your college application? _____
- **Demonstrated Interest:**
- Does this program demonstrate your interest in specific colleges or fields? [] Yes [] No
- Explain: _____
- **Potential for Recommendations:**

- Possibility of gaining letters of recommendation:

Rating (1-5): _____ (1 = Minimal Impact, 5 = High Impact)

Section 5: Financial Considerations

- **Total Cost:** \$ _____
 - **Scholarships or Financial Aid Available:** [] Yes [] No
 - If Yes, specify: _____
 - **Cost-Benefit Analysis:**
 - Is the cost justified by the potential benefits? [] Yes [] No
 - Why or why not: _____

Section 6: Alternative - Self-Initiated Summer Project

- **Project Idea:**
- Description: _____
- **Goals:**
- Academic: _____
- Personal: _____
- **Resources Needed:**
- Time: _____
- Materials or Money: \$ _____
- Mentors or Contacts: _____
- **Potential Outcomes:**
- Skills Developed: _____
- Impact on College Application:

- **How Does This Compare to a Formal Program?**
- Pros: _____
- Cons: _____

Section 7: Decision Making

- **Program vs. DIY:**
- Based on your evaluation, which option is more beneficial for you? [] Program [] DIY
- **Final Decision:**
- Reasons for your choice:

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- **Next Steps:**
 - If Program:
 - Application Deadline: _____
 - Financial Aid Application: _____
 - If DIY:
 - Project Timeline: _____
 - First Action: _____

Use this tool to weigh the value of pre-college summer programs against creating your own initiative. Remember, the goal is to advance your academic, personal, or career development in a way that aligns with your long-term goals. Regularly revisit this evaluation as your interests or situations might change.

Next Step: After using this tool, discuss your findings with a mentor, counselor, or parent to get feedback and refine your summer plans.