



30 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE CHOOSING 9TH AND 10TH GRADE EXTRACURRICULARS



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Many students underestimate the impact freshman and sophomore year of high school have on your college applications. When it comes to extracurriculars, freshman year is an excellent time to explore your interests and join a variety of clubs. Try to join 2-3 clubs in 9th grade to get a feel for what you enjoy—you'll have time to drop them later if you need or want to. However, if you find your niche early on and stick to it, colleges will be impressed with your commitment.

Meanwhile, by sophomore year you'll be more familiar with your school and your interests. This can be the year to pursue leadership roles and perhaps even start your own initiative. As you start thinking about which of your interests you'd like to develop, use this list of questions to guide you through your decisions.

9th Grade:

1. What are your hobbies?
2. What are your biggest talents or skills?
3. Is there any activity you've always wanted to try but haven't been able to?
4. Are there any clubs that align with your academic interests?
5. Where do you see yourself holding a leadership position in the future?
6. What are your career goals?
7. Are there any clubs that express your values?
8. Which clubs can help expand your learning on a topic you're interested in?
9. Are there any organizations that have leadership roles for freshmen?
10. Are there any activities outside school that appeal to you such as an online class?
11. Are you interested in volunteering in your local community?
12. What are resources around you you can take advantage of?
13. What activities does your high school counselor recommend for you?
14. If you have creative interests, have you started a portfolio?
15. If school is remote, where do you feel you can be the most productive?

10th Grade:

1. How do you feel about your experiences in your current clubs?
2. Do you want to continue?
3. Do you want to tweak any of your activities or take it in a new direction?
4. Do they allow for collaboration?
5. Are the activities unique? Are they clubs many students participate in?
6. Will any of the activities shape your personality?
7. Will you face any challenges in pursuing any of the activities?
8. What specifically about the activity you continue could spark your interest?
9. Will they provide a memorable experience?
10. Is there something you could do with this activity that others have not been able to?
11. Do you see yourself taking over the leadership of the club?
12. Is there anything you would like to drop?
13. Do you see yourself dedicating a significant amount of time to all your activities?
14. Are there any clubs that are missing in your school that you could start?
15. In which areas do you see yourself achieving tangible results?

Ultimately, there isn't a single path to participating in extracurricular activities in high school. Take advantage of your earlier semesters to explore your schools' offerings. As your interests start to take focus, dedicate yourself to a few clubs where you can spend time honing your leadership and collaboration skills. Good luck!