

**ASSIGNMENT #7 DUE: JUNE 26**

**PREPARING FOR A GRADUATE SCHOOL VISIT**

**Preparation for Workshop on June 23:** We will be conducting a “mock interview” exercise so that you can prepare and practice for your graduate school interviews and visits in general. You should review/complete the packet you received during camp from Dr. Bob Belle on “First and Lasting Impression: Organizing for the Interview” and practice the “CAB” technique when preparing your “strategic talking points” below. You may wish to complete your “talking points” in preparation for the workshop on Tuesday, June 24; you will upload a copy of your answers as part of your assignment. You should come prepared with your CV which you will present to the interviewers.

You can anticipate the following schedule for mock interviews unless otherwise announced:

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Let’s have lunch and talk with graduated scholars about visiting graduate schools
1:30 – 3:50 p.m.	Mock interviews facilitated by visiting faculty
1:30	Rebecca/Elizabeth
1:50	Genna/Kyle
2:10	Kayana/Amanda
2:30	John/Mark
2:50	Sam/Caitlin
3:10	Cyrus/Kerry
3:30	Rebecka/Briana

**Assignment Part One:** Develop “strategic talking points” by writing out answers to the following questions with your top-choice school in mind. Be specific and succinct as possible. Remember to use the “CAB” technique which essentially is a “short, impactful action story that enhances the value of a personal ability.”

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Describe your current research.
3. What are your long-term career goals? What led you to this field of study?
4. Name your top strength and top weakness.
5. What attracted you to our program and why do you want to study here?
6. What do you have to offer in terms of attending this program?
7. In what ways do you envision contributing to this field overall?

**Note:** Practice these answers so that you become skilled in delivering a “fluid response” whether a potential faculty advisor asks during a formal interview or a fellow colleague inquires about your interests and/or background during lunch at a national conference. The more you practice these answers...the easier it will get!

**Assignment Part Two:** Develop a “school visitation plan” for schools you would like to visit as part of your graduate application process. Describe your plan by including the time you plan to visit each, people you plan on contacting (or perhaps already have) to set up appointments with (including faculty, graduate students or graduate school personnel) and a logistics overview including how you plan to travel (fly or drive, hotel stay, etc.). Include a “travel form” (from the McNair website) for your top-choice school and fill it out as completely as possible (ask Jeanine for help if needed).

**Note:** Remember that some institutions/programs offer travel reimbursement and some even sponsor special visitation opportunities for McNair scholars. Scholars will be alerted to such opportunities and details posted on the web.