

5 Ways to Signal MVA Evidence

Can students recognize the value of their real-world experience?



1. Social Capital

A student feels confident contacting a “weak tie”—a person they have interacted with just enough to be recognized—for help or mentorship



2. Self-Reflection

A student can ask themselves, “Is this something I want to do in the future?” They explore and update the path they are on as they experience more. Students realize their strengths/abilities and know how to apply them to future opportunities



3. Shares Experience

A student is able to explain their experience including skills they gained in casual conversation—that is a “hallway pitch” (aka the “elevator pitch”). When asked, they can tell a parent or friend why this was a valuable experience.



4. Prepared for the Next Step

A student has the language and understanding to describe their experience on a resume, their LinkedIn profile, college application, scholarship or job application.



5. Seeks Feedback

A student seeks feedback from mentors who are outside of the school context. A student understands that authentic feedback helps them and their work. They embrace positive and critical comments, adjusting along the way.

RESUME-WORTHY STUDENT OUTGROWTHS

- Communicates clearly—A student can communicate complex ideas and needs in writing or verbally, even to people who are unfamiliar to them.
- Plans and manages projects—A student can envision and express the steps needed to accomplish a project.
- Collaborates to an end—A student advocates for changes, works with others on shared goals, and finds compromise when necessary.
- Is proactive—A student advances a project with regular employer–student engagement points.
- Works through difficulty—A student is comfortable with assignments that stretch what they already know and have done.
- Conducts research and refines plans—A student seeks external input (e.g. Google searches, contacting “weak ties,” joining interest/industry/affinity groups) at all stages of a project.