



WADHAM
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DEVELOPING AND DEMONSTRATING YOUR INTERESTS



Using super-curricular activities to demonstrate your skills and passion in a personal statement.

Remember to make notes:

1. Which resource did you use?
2. What did it involve?
3. What were you struck by?
What questions did it raise?
4. Why were you interested?
5. Why should others be interested?
6. What did you do to find out more?
What did you think?

You found a subject or idea that interests you...how can you use this as a stepping stone to find out more?

- A) find other articles/books/interviews by the same author or on the same topic
- B) find a journal in a related subject
- C) listen to a podcast on the topic
- D) ask a teacher what they would recommend
- E) organise a discussion group at school
- F) see if a local museum or library has similar collections

An example:

I attended a taster lecture at Oxford University on the use of lasers in cell biology (1,2). I was intrigued to see how particular technology allows us to uncover complexity not normally visible to the naked eye, and in particular the role of fluorescence molecules (3,4). The ability to use adaptations from other organisms (e.g. the GFP gene from Jellyfish) to see the inner workings of the cell made me realise how the way we design experiments shapes our knowledge (4,5). Subsequently, I accessed the Cell Library Online to explore other ways in which researchers have solved the problems of labeling cell components, e.g. LipidTOX to visualise lipid droplets without killing the cell (6).