

*How did you first become interested in Reed, and why do you think Reed would be an appropriate place, both academically and socially, to continue your education? (This essay is instrumental in helping the admission committee determine the match between you and Reed, so please be thorough.)*

Looking for best fit colleges is the first and most important step in the admission process. Thus, I have spent a lot of time searching on the Internet while asking my predecessors about colleges they had applied. Finally, I have narrowed my college list to several schools and sent it to my brother. He appeared to be very surprised that I did not put Reed in my list. As few Vietnamese students had applied to it, I was hesitant to choose Reed. Nevertheless, since my brother has encouraged me so much to discover Reed, I have visited its website and discovered the reason Reed was not so popular among Vietnamese applicants: It does not participate in any ranking!

That fact had made me feel so curious about the school. Therefore, I was excited to research more on Reed College. Indeed, Reed turned out to be a perfect college for me to develop my characteristics and knowledge. While trying my best to achieve a high GPA for a good profile, I believe educational growth is a more important factor. Thus, I have always been seeking challenges in exploring new fields of study. While concentrating on my Chemistry major, I also endeavored to excel in English and Geography. I have found Reed distinctive for its de-emphasis on grades. Reedies do not see their grades unless they specifically request them on individual assignments or at the end of a course. Such policy would help me ease my college life and give me the opportunities to explore Reed's various courses.

Besides, I also aimed to develop in not only academics but also extracurricular activities. The desire to share my interests in music has led me to host the Voice of Ams Radio Show. I have also participated in the school Student Organization and made a variety of class discussions in order to share my experiences and knowledge with other students. As a result, I have learned many valuable lessons that helped me evolve as an open and cooperative person. Fostering on conference-type classes, Reed would be the best place for me to further develop my skills and share my thoughts freely. In addition, I was fascinated to discover that Reed professors have received the national recognition for commitment to teaching. They can put their personal ambitions and egos aside to offer students knowledge, friendly advice and constructive criticism.

Besides its academic reputation, wonderful professor-student relationship and helpful community, Reed offers students valuable opportunities to self-develop by placing less emphasis on grades. If admitted, I will continue to work hard to maintain my highest standards of academic excellence, to deeply explore Reed and to improve my personalities. I also hope that Reed would recognize my characteristics, academic accomplishments, and potentials and give me a chance to become a member of Reed community.