

# Taking Stock Questions for the First Year

Consider facilitating reflection through free writing, paired sharing, or group discussion.

## Big Picture

What does living “a good life” mean to you? Describe and discuss your definition of living a good life, also reflect on how you came to formulate these perspectives.

Do you have a large life goal(s)? What is it? What are your plans for pursuing it? What challenges do you anticipate?

Consider your current expectations regarding college. What do you know about college education, including academics and campus life, and how have these impressions been formed?

Do you have a role model? Who and why?

Is college a place “to grow”? In what ways do you anticipate growth or development?

How do you make decisions (large and small)? What’s your approach; do you involve others; and how do you feel about making decisions generally?

## Further Reflection

Recall your favorite and least favorite high school courses. If you were the teacher in these respective courses, what would you do differently, and what would you keep the same?

What would you like to accomplish this first year? What would need to happen for you to say at the end of next spring, “This was a good first year”?

What’s gone (going) well for you this term, inside and outside the classroom?

Have you discovered a system of learning and studying that works best for you? What helps you succeed academically?

What educational experiences have been the most stimulating and influential so far?

Do you feel like you’re making connections on campus—in the classroom, with other people and groups? How do you spend your free time?

Have you had any particular challenges transitioning to life at JCU? If so, what happened, and how did you address them?

Have you started to think about an academic major? What’s motivating you to pursue this path? What exploratory courses are you considering? Have you consulted with the major department?

# Resources for Discussion:

*Catalogue of Saint Ignatius' College, 1890-1891\**

<http://collected.jcu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=stignatiuscatalogues>

Rev. Himes, *Three Key Questions* video clip

Boston College professor poses three questions regarding vocation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRGvhe1CKmg>

Light, "How to Live Wisely"

*New York Times* article highlighting reflective exercises with college students.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/02/education/edlife/how-to-live-wisely.html?WT.mc\\_id=2015-KWP-AUD\\_DEV&WT.mc\\_ev=click&ad-keywords=AUDDEVREMARK&kwp\\_0=32881&kwp\\_4=189412&kwp\\_1=174176&r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/02/education/edlife/how-to-live-wisely.html?WT.mc_id=2015-KWP-AUD_DEV&WT.mc_ev=click&ad-keywords=AUDDEVREMARK&kwp_0=32881&kwp_4=189412&kwp_1=174176&r=1)

\*Historical and Comparative Perspectives

Compare today's *University Bulletin* with the policies, practices, and curriculum outlined in the *Catalogue of Saint Ignatius' College, 1890-1891*.

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