

MISSION DRIFT WORKSHEET

Read each of the five excerpts from founding documents of North American colleges in the left hand column. Can you guess what college the statement came from? Match each college's founding purpose/principles statement with a corresponding statement in the right that originated from the institution as it exists today.

Founding Purpose/Principles	Contemporary Statement
<p>to promote learning among the English, and be a means to supply a great number of churches and congregations which are likely soon to be formed in that new country, with a learned and orthodox ministry; ... for the education and instruction of youth of the Indian tribes in this land ... for civilizing and christianizing children of pagans, as well as in all liberal arts and sciences, and also of English youth and any others</p>	<p>"The word <i>discrimination</i> began to be used—a lot—specifically in regard to creedal requirements. It was lobbed like a grenade to end all argument. Administrators compared Christian students to 1960s segregationists. I once mustered courage to ask them if they truly thought it was fair to equate racial prejudice with asking Bible study leaders to affirm the Resurrection. The vice chancellor replied, "Creedal discrimination is still discrimination." ... [leader of student ministry de-recognized as campus organization]</p>
<p>We blush to think there is no institution in [state] to which our youth can resort for collegiate instruction, without imbibing ideas at variance with the religion of their fathers, and the Church of their adoption.</p>	<p>"We poured our hearts out ... telling our stories, telling stories of previous students who were damaged or hurt in some way by the institution, which had action taken against them for being gay or being in a same-sex relationship ... They looked us in the eye and said this policy is harmful, it's discriminatory, it's stigmatizing and we're going to get rid of it. ... A lot of students are feeling ... distrust and that the university is actually not brave enough to live truly in their faith and what they believe." [student services employee]</p>
<p><i>God First</i> ... preparing disciples and scholars to go out and make a difference in the world for Christ. ... passionate about creating a place for Christian education gathered to form the Training School for Christian Workers ... geared toward preparing men and women for ministry and service.</p>	<p>I just have a sense that, you know, I'm curious about what is religion about, you know? Why do some of us still engage it? It's not because it's a set of old beliefs or old ideas. Or even, particularly, the view that this is the only true religion. Many of us no longer accept those views. [faculty member]</p>
<p>Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is <i>to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life</i> (Jn. 17:3) and therefore to lay <i>Christ</i> at the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and sound learning.</p>	<p>You have come from every corner of the world, and represent nearly every socioeconomic background, political persuasion, religious affiliation, and cultural background. ... And we've seen tensions and divisions simmer ... around fundamental issues of identity, human rights, and free speech; ... and around academic issues like the value of scientific inquiry, the value of the humanities, and even the value of a college education. And that's the reason why each of you is here ... to gain the knowledge and understanding you need to advance and repair the world.</p>
<p>I hope to be pardoned for declaring that I am not resigned to that condition [an uneducated clergy], either for myself or my brethren. I claim Methodism a mission to all classes. "All souls are mine," saith the Lord. A Church of Jesus Christ has no right to confine itself to, or exclude itself from, any class; and if any necessity appears for doing so, it is a demonstration that its ministerial training demands enlargement.</p>	<p>[the university] defines itself as a community of teachers and students devoted to the free pursuit of truth. ... A university by definition and tradition must be a place of free inquiry whether in the classroom, laboratory, or on the speaker's platform ...</p>

Brown University, RI (1764)	Left: 1 Right: 4
Ohio Wesleyan, OH (1842)	Left: 2 Right: 5
Azusa Pacific, CA (1900/1939)	Left: 3 Right: 2
Harvard University, MA (1636)	Left: 4 Right: 3 [Elaine Pagels]
Vanderbilt University, TN (1873)	Left: 5 Right: 1