

Summer PROfessional Development Handout
Session 4:
Why Hiring Committees at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions
Want Faculty Candidates with Postdoctoral Research Experience

Formative assessment (index cards) for today: What learning communities would you like to see at Cornell?

This handout won't be collected – these questions are designed to help you reflect on your professional identity and your future career path. Be honest with yourself!

1. What are some pros (positives) of doing a postdoc?

2. What are some cons (negatives) of doing a postdoc?

3. What are some research activities/projects you might want to do as a postdoc?
(Whether or not you think you want to do a postdoc, there are probably some projects you'd be interested in doing!)

4. If you think you don't want to do a postdoc, list some reasons why you don't want to do one.

5. Reflect on what you've written so far– has what you've written tended to focus on your personal life? Your professional life? Work/life balance? Have you been focused on the short term? The long term?

6. What could you do as a postdoc that would increase your chances of getting your dream job?

7. At what kind of institution[s] might you want to do a postdoc? Where geographically (cities/towns, states, countries, climates, etc.) might you want live and work for a few years?