

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mrs. Bonner's Recommendation Letter Questionnaire**

Although I'll be getting input from others in the school, I am the person who will write the official school letter of recommendation that is required by most colleges. It will be an extremely important part of your application at many of those colleges, and I want to write the best possible letter I can for each of you. To do that, I need your help. Help me get to know you better by answering all of the questions on this questionnaire candidly and thoroughly. If there is something you'd rather not write, but want me to know, put an asterisk (\*) next to the question and come see me in my office. If there is anything you want me to know, but prefer that I not share with colleges, tell me that on the sheet. If you're not sure whether it's a good idea to share something, please come and talk to me in person.

1. Tell me about your family. With whom do you live? What other family members are you close to? Have you always lived with the same family members, or has it changed?
2. How far from BL do you live? How do you get here each day?
3. Why did you decide to attend BL? What would your most likely alternative have been? Why have you stayed, when other classmates have left along the way?
4. How do you feel about graduating this year? What emotions are you feeling about this achievement and about taking the next steps in life?
5. What are your goals in life? What do you hope to achieve over the next 70 years?
6. Do you have any heroes? If so, what qualities of the person(s) do you admire?

7. Think of all the teachers you've had over the years. Choose the teacher you feel you learned the most from, and tell me why you chose that person and what kinds of things you learned from him or her.
  
8. Tell me about a moment you can remember from any one of the classes you have taken at BL when you were really interested in what you were learning or when you had a kind of "AHA!" moment and began to understand something that you hadn't understood previously. What emotions were you experiencing? Why was this moment significant to you?
  
9. Tell me about a book that you have read, either at school or on your own, that you truly enjoyed. What did you like about it? Why did it speak to you? Was there a character with whom you identified, and if so, how?
  
10. What kinds of things do you hope to learn at college? What do you hope to gain from the experience (other than a degree)? What do you want to be known for among your classmates at college?
  
11. Have you experienced any unusual obstacles in life that you have had to overcome? If so, tell me about them.
  
12. What has been the best moment of your life so far? What has been the worst?
  
13. Say an admissions committee is reading your application alongside 5 others from students with the exact same GPA and SAT scores. What makes you stand out among the others? How are you different?