

CPRL Student Application: Written Prompts

Spring 2022 & Fall 2022

Introduction

Below are the writing prompts for CPRL's student application. For more information about this exercise, please see the online application: <https://cprl.law.columbia.edu/content/how-apply>

Prompt A

In 500 words max, please explain what attracts you to CPRL. Consider all aspects of CPRL's program (i.e., seminar, skills, and client-facing projects) and what skills, experiences, interests, and aspirations you bring to CPRL.

Prompt B

Consider the following scenario. A medium-sized urban school district has decided to create a new electronic system to track student academic results and provide teachers a snapshot of student performance that includes an analysis of student strengths and learning needs.

The district has engaged CPRL to make recommendations for the design (e.g., key features) and implementation (e.g., roll-out and use) of the system.

In CPRL's kick-off call with the client point, the district's executive director of strategy and innovation shared a few critical pieces of information:

- The district's board and superintendent are invested in this strategy and have allocated significant board meeting discussion time to it. There is also sufficient funding allocated to the project in the district's budget.
- Alongside CPRL's work, the district will launch a request for proposals (RFP) for a technology organization to customize a platform to meet the district's needs. The client plans to have this organization use CPRL's design recommendations.
- The district's teachers generally have limited access to and training in the use of computer-based platforms.

In 250 words max, answer the following questions in narrative, bullet, outline, or another format:

1. What key steps might your team take over the course of the project to provide the requested recommendations for the design and implementation of the system?
2. The school district has asked your project team to address all important educational, legal, operational, change management, and policy considerations likely to arise in developing the new data system. Name 1-3 challenges the district and/or your team might encounter over the course of the project and suggest steps your team might take to address them.