

CRIMSON KEY SOCIETY
Tour Information Sheet
Comp 2020

STORY REMINDERS AND COMMON MISTAKES:

(Just a reminder, these will make sense once you have gone on a Model Tour. Do not feel intimidated if these do not initially make sense to you--many of them are optional stories that you do not need to include on your tour stop)

1. **The Ephraim Briggs Story**
 - a. It's a myth that he ran out of the burning Harvard Hall to save the one book
 - b. He did, however, have the book checked out
 - c. Harvard Magazine wrote a brief story about this:
<https://harvardmagazine.com/2001/05/saved-from-the-flames.html>
 - d. But please do your own research it's a cool story!
2. **The Guard House is the most expensive building *per square foot* on Harvard's campus (Mass Hall).**
 - a. It cost the University \$57,000.
3. **Only the top (fourth) floor of Mass Hall is a freshman dorm**
4. **The Polaroid Story is FALSE (Science Center).**
 - a. Do not, under any circumstance, reference it on your tour. We have been explicitly asked not to tell this story. DO NOT MENTION IT.
5. **President Lowell's quote is, "A well educated man must know a little bit of everything and one thing well." (Science Center)**
6. **Baylor University's Armstrong Browning Library houses the largest secular collection of stained glass (Memorial Hall).**
 - a. Memorial Hall is number two!
7. **The Widener Library is named after HARRY Elkins Widener, Jr., not HENRY (Widener).**
8. **The swim test at Harvard and the Widener story are completely unrelated (Widener).**
 - a. This is a myth. The swim test was introduced about 10 years after Mrs. Widener's stipulations, and somehow the stories merged together over time. You may present the story, but present it as a myth.
9. **Mrs. Widener donated 2 million dollars to Harvard for Widener Library (Widener).**
 - a. Don't trust Wikipedia for all your facts.
10. **John Harvard's book, *Christian Warfare Against the Devil, World, and Flesh*, is located in Houghton Library not Widener Library (Widener).**
 - a. John Harvard's total donation was *half* of his estate (£779) and his *entire* book collection (400 books).
11. **The Gutenberg Bible was donated by the Widener family, but not until 1944. It did not belong to Harry.**
 - a. You do not need to include this in your tour, but if you do, please be sure to state it correctly.
12. **Harvard's Library System is the third largest in the country (Widener).**

- a. #1 is the Library of Congress, and #2 is the Boston Public Library.
- b. There are over 17 million volumes in the collection, and over 3 million in Widener Library alone
- c. Widener Library itself is **not** the third largest—it's the entire library system that is.
- d. Harvard's library system is also the largest private (and largest educational) library system in the country.

13. **The man portrayed as John Harvard is Sherman Hoar (John Harvard Statue).**

- a. Sherman Hoar was a member of the Class of 1882. Hoar was the descendant of past Harvard president, Reverend Leonard Hoar (1672-1674).

Make use of the *Inside Harvard* guidebook

It will significantly improve the factual quality of your tour.

Available in Lamont

tone:

The CKS tour should be casual and conversational. It should not sound like a memorized script of names and dates, because this will make you appear detached from your tour group. Instead, your stops should include **personal touches** in order to emphasize the fact that you are an undergraduate student here at the college. Share your (positive) experiences with your group! You should always remain professional, but please be wary of sounding speechy. Also, include **transitions** between your tour stops (not needed for the first round interview, since it is only one tour stop).

The best way to get a feel for the proper tone of a Crimson Key tour is to go on a real one! You are *strongly encouraged* to go on several model or regular CKS tours (see the bottom of this sheet for details).

QUESTIONS:

When answering questions during and after your tour/tour stop, please be sure to respond in a respectful manner. Do your best to be honest, but be conscious of your group and make sure that your response does not make anyone uncomfortable.

Also, think of different ways to evade answering awkward questions—try to do so without being dismissive or defensive. If you ever feel uncomfortable, you are not obligated to provide a response. Just respectfully navigate away from the question. When in doubt, remember always to be respectful, steer the conversation into a direction where you can focus on positive aspects of student life and remember you are representing Harvard.

MUST-KNOW FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Class of 2021 Admission Rate: approximately 5.2%
 - 2,037 admitted out of 39,506 applicants
 - 1,687 Matriculates (82.8% yield)
- Tuition: \$63,025 (two semesters, including tuition, fees, room, and board)
 - More than 55% of students receive financial aid
 - More than 20% of students' families pay nothing
 - Average grant is approximately \$46,000
 - \$172,000,000 in undergraduate financial aid was awarded in 2012
- \$37.1 billion endowment as of June 2017
- 97% of students live on campus
- 97% graduation rate
- 12.4% of Class of 2021 are foreign citizens