CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 10-16 ▲ WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

& MODIFIED 10-18 PAYING FOR COLLEGE

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Students will list reasons postsecondary education would benefit them.
* Students will identify a potential college major to prepare for a career of interest.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* What Will You Do After High School?
* **Internet access** (to research majors and careers)

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Discuss students’ postsecondary goals.** Tell studentsthat there are many options for what they can do after they graduate from high school. Ask for volunteers to share some of those options and write each of them on the board, leaving room to write underneath each word: four-year college, two-year (community) college, a certificate from a technical school, an apprenticeship, the military, or a job. Then divide students into small groups – one for each post-high school option – and ask them to come up with one reason why this option could be good and one option why it might not. Then have each group write their reasons on the board underneath the option. (For example, students might say that going to four-year college could help them learn a lot and find a good job, but that it could be very expensive and leave them in debt.) If you want, conclude the discussion with a show of hands: how many students are planning to pursue each of the options? Why?
2. **Review reasons to attend college.** Distribute the *What Will You Do After High School?* Worksheet and review the first page with your students. Focus in particular on two points that will build from your earlier discussion: (1) nearly all jobs today require some type of education or training after high school; and (2) there are many different types of colleges and college programs, depending on a student’s interests, from several months to two years to four years or more. Does this information change how students feel about college? Why or why not?
3. **Check educational requirements.** The most compelling reason in favor of college, though, is because a student realizes it is the best way to achieve his or her goals. Ask students to complete the second page of the handout. They can complete as much of the following as they can and then use the College Board’s Majors & Careers Central to identify potential majors or careers and then find postsecondary programs that offer training in that major: [www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors\_careers/index.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html).

**\*You can call students over individually to help access college & major searches, use the overhead projector and do searches in front of your entire class, or use laptop carts if available for students to conduct their own research.**

1. **Introduce theWashBoard.org.** Tell students that the State of Washington thinks a college education is so important that it has organized a scholarship-matching site called **theWashBoard.org** at [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org). It is a free, web-based scholarship-matching clearinghouse for Washington Students. TheWashBoard.org is supported by the Washington Scholarship Coalition, a public/private partnership of foundations, non-profit organizations, and state agencies. Scholarships are FREE MONEY available to help students pay for college. Show **theWashBoard.org’s website on an overhead projector** and play the three information videos on Youtube: [www.youtube.com/user/thewashboardorg?feature=mhum](http://www.youtube.com/user/thewashboardorg?feature=mhum).

Discuss the following issues about scholarships:

* + Scholarships aren’t just for jocks or smarty-pants.
  + DON’T PAY ANYONE to help you find free money!
  + Start early and keep looking. One day isn’t enough.
  + Look local.
  + Tailor each scholarship application to match the required criteria.
  + Follow the directions and deadlines!
  + Visit the College & Career Center and get to know Jewel Robinson!

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *What Will You Do After High School?* Worksheet**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* Your school might wish to hold a College Night for students and their families, where they could hear from school guidance counselors, graduates of your high school, or admissions officers from local colleges. In addition, you may wish to share the following resources to help students and their families learn more about preparing for, applying to, attending, and paying for college.
* **College Board:** [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)   
  College search, career/major search, exam prep and registration, financial aid info
* **Know How 2 Go:** [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)
* **First in the Family:** [www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)
* **Adventures in Education:** [www.adventuresineducation.org/middleschool/index.cfm](http://www.adventuresineducation.org/middleschool/index.cfm)

**ALIGNMENT WITH STANDARDS**

* **Essential Academic Learning Requirements Grades 9/10 Grade Level Expectations:** This lesson is aligned with Writing 2.2.1 and Educational Technology 1.3.2 and 1.3.3. Students will complete a short career-based writing exercise. They will locate, analyze, and use information from an online college and career database.
* **Common Core State Standards Grades 9-10:** This lesson is aligned with English Language Arts Writing 4, 7, and 8. Students will prepare a short writing exercise and conduct a focused research project using an online database to find and analyze information.
* **American School Counselor Association National Standards:** This lesson is aligned with ASCA Academic B2.7 and C1.6 and Personal & Social B1.9. Students will identify postsecondary options consistent with their interests and demonstrate how school success will enhance future opportunities. They will identify short- and long-term goals.

CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 10-16 HANDOUT

WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A recent poll showed that most high school students want to go to college. Why is that?

**TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE**

* Fifty years ago, you could do without college: most jobs in the U.S. required only a high school education or less.
* But today, very few jobs accept people without education or training after high school.
* In the future, college will be even more important: nearly all of the fastest growing occupations require postsecondary education.

**TO EARN A GOOD LIVING**

* A person with a college degree has higher earning potential than someone with only a high school diploma.
* Someone with a college degree is also much less likely to be unemployed.

**TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS**

Reaching your dream probably requires college.

* You may need a one-year certificate program from a technical college.
* You may need an apprenticeship program.
* You may need a two-year associate’s degree from a community college.
* You may need a four-year bachelor’s degree.
* Or you may need advanced education beyond college.

No matter what your dream, there is a college and a program for you.

**WHAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU?**

Use your school guidance center resources or the Career Bridge for more information. <http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/>

Use your school guidance center resources, Career Bridge <http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/> or the College Board’s Majors & Careers Central ([www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors\_careers/index.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html)) to complete this page.

|  |
| --- |
| **A career that interests me is (career name and reason):** |
|  |
| **To prepare for this career my college major (or program) could be:** |
|  |
| **I would need the following degree:** |
|  |
| **One college I could attend for this major is (college name, location, reason):** |
|  |
| **High school courses I should take to prepare include:** |
|  |