CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 11-6 ▲ COLLEGE SEARCHES

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* How to organize an online search for college information.
* Questions to ask yourself about the search.
* Critical information to find.
* Identify information for a college they are interested in attending.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* Finding the Right Fit Worksheet
* **Internet access for researching college websites**

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Introduce the concept of searching effectively (i.e. using time effectively) to get the information you want and need.** Ask students to share a worst web search experience. What are the challenges? What causes the greatest frustrations when you are trying to find or keep track of important information? Acknowledge that many students may have already been online searching for college information. Share that this lesson is a tune-up to make the process more efficient and effective.
2. **Distribute the *Finding the Right Fit Worksheet.*** Then, for each question on the worksheet:
* Pose a question as it appears on the student worksheet;
* Give students time to talk with a partner about their answers;
* Encourage students jot down the answers to the questions on the worksheet; and
* The class discusses best practices.
1. **Have students go back individually and determine or indicate the one strategy they are going to add to what they already knew.** Ask them as a group to indicate that they learned overall.
2. **If time and web access allows, begin to research helpful tools and resources.** Students will likely have up-to-date suggestions for each other.

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *Finding the Right Fit Worksheet***

 **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* **FACILITATOR NOTES**

Conducting an internet search may sound simple for the students who are so plugged in electronically. However, high school students, particularly first generation students, may have no idea how to conduct either an efficient or effective college information search. While the lesson is focused on college information, it is just as important for the scholarship search.

* **ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY**

The obvious next lesson for these materials are to allow students complete college and scholarship searches using some of the strategies, evaluating how well the strategy worked and reporting back to the class as a whole.

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LESSON 11-6 STUDENT HANDOUT

 FINDING THE RIGHT FIT WORKSHEET

Planning your college search will save you a great deal of time and energy. Take some time to think about your answers and share responses with other students.

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| **Questions I need to ask myself** | **My Answers** |
| **When will I schedule time to search out information on colleges or scholarships?**  |  |
| **What are some of the best resources?**  |  |
| **What questions should I have in mind about colleges?**  |  |
| **What questions should I have in mind about scholarships?**  |  |
| **Where will I start?**  |  |
| **What kind of filing system can I use to keep track of the information on colleges?**  |  |
| **What kind of filing system can I use to keep track of information on scholarships?**  |  |
| **Who or where can I ask for help?**  |  |
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