CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 10-16 ▲ WHY GO TO “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** (for students to research majors and careers)

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Discuss students’ postsecondary goals in their High School & Beyond Plan.** 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? What is meant by the word “college”?
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 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).

**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:** <http://www.aie.org/About/>

**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 STUDENT 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 career and counseling center 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 the next page.

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|  |
| --- |
| **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:** |
|  |