

## ***Creating My Story: My Journey to College and Career***

### ***Lesson One – Introduction to the College Orientation Course***

***Guiding question:*** *What is my story?*

#### **Summary**

This lesson introduces students to the college orientation course. Using the metaphor of life as a story, students will consider important things they have learned in their lives and preview the college orientation lessons that will add to their college and career story.

#### **Goals**

Students will understand that what we have experienced and learned becomes a part of our identity and important to our plans for future schooling and careers.

#### **Skills Emphasized**

- Applying learned skills to future goals
- Creating graphic organizers
- Creating metaphors

#### **Materials needed**

- Objects important to students
- Portfolio for course (e.g. 3 ring binder, spiral with pockets supplied by college)
- Drawing paper
- Photocopies of quotes

#### **Lesson Design**

A few days in advance of teaching this lesson, the teacher should bring an object to class that symbolizes something significant about what they have learned and accomplished, such as artwork created, a letter or photo, an award, etc. Tell the class to look around home for a symbol that says something about their experiences. Have them bring one object to class in a paper bag for this lesson.

To start the lesson, have everyone sit in a circle and one by one describe what each brought and what it says about him or her. Place the objects in the middle of the circle for all to see. After each has shared, comment about the amount this class has already accomplished, symbolized by the objects in the middle of the circle. Discuss how things we accomplish and learn begin to weave our life story and add to our future goals.

Next, pass out these quotes (from the quotes-handout link on the same web page as this lesson plan):

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**“Each of us is a story, and each day part of that story unfolds. Each of us is the author to the story of our life, holding within us the power to change the plot at any time. What you dreamt last night is a story-tell it to someone. Who you visited with over lunch is a story-tell it to someone. Who you love is a story-tell it to someone. The secret you hold in your heart is a story-tell it to someone. Tell it to us...**

**When you find the story that you are-you find your life.”**

*Flaming Rainbow Woman, spiritual warrior*

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**“Whoever survives a test, whatever it may be, must tell the story. That is his duty.”**

*Elie Wiesel, Nobel peace prize winner*

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**“The one who tells the stories rules the world.”**

*Hopi proverb*

Have students sit in small groups based on the quote they received. Have them discuss what the quote means to them and how it relates to their objects and accomplishments. Have a spokesperson from each of the three groups summarize their discussion for the class.

Tell students they will begin to add to their life story by experiencing the lessons in this college orientation course. Give a brief summary of each lesson and the significance college has in one's life.

### **Putting it all together**

Remind students that just like the objects they brought, symbols begin to tell a life story. Tell the class that in times long ago and even today, the art forms of Indians illustrate what they have learned and experienced. You may want to display pictures of art forms appropriate to your setting such as Indian pottery, basketry, beadwork, masks, totem poles, etc.

As a symbol of what they will learn in this course, tell students they will be creating a graphic organizer of their learning using a Native art form. Pass out the portfolios and drawing paper. Have them think about symbols that represent what they have accomplished so far and how it can be applied to their postsecondary plans. If time allows, students can begin sketching their graphic. Tell them that after each lesson, they will be adding a symbol to their graphic that represents what they have learned and added to their life story.

**Extra credit:** Who is Elie Wiesel and what test did he have to pass? Did he do his duty and tell his story?