

Creating My Story: Lesson Seven - Applying for College

Guiding Question:

What are the first steps for getting into college?

Short Summary Of Lesson:

In this lesson, students will research the application process for two colleges of their choosing. They will compare the steps for each, then create a plan for completing the requirements listed.

Lesson Goals:

Students will understand that one of the first steps to make college dreams come true is knowing how to apply to college.

Skills Emphasized:

- Internet research skills
- Planning skills
- Identifying the relationship between college and career

Materials Needed:

- Computers with Internet access
- Printers
- Paper and pencils

Teacher Note:

Various college websites in Washington are listed in *Where are you going? A guide to careers and education in Washington State* - available to view online or free in print from:

**Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
128 - 10th Avenue SW
P.O. Box 43105
Olympia, WA 98504-3105**

Lesson Design

Begin the lesson by displaying documents that show intention to commit such as a Native American tribal enrollment form (Suquamish example included – or locate form more appropriate to your students), an early college high school application, an AVID commitment form. Discuss how each requires a decision be made, a plan created, and specific steps be followed. Make the connection to planning for college and the application process.

Ask the class to choose a college you will use to model how to locate application information online. Show how to find application instructions, application forms, and requirements for enrolling.

Then in pairs, have students research at least 2 colleges (community college, private college, public university) and compare the application processes. After 10-12 minutes, have pairs find another pair to share what they discovered. Draw general conclusions about the application process for the class. Highlight the need to think carefully about high school classes they should take to meet college requirements. (The KnowHow2Go website has kid-friendly videos you can show about taking tough classes such as algebra and foreign languages to prepare for college.)

Have students print the application of the college in which they are most interested.

Have them fill out as much of the application as appropriate and place in their portfolio.

Finally, ask them to begin their high school plan based on their skills and interests, and the college's entrance requirements.

**** The high school plan handout is available for download on the CNE website.***

Using their high school plan, ask students to reflect on this lesson by answering the guiding question, "what are the first steps for getting into college?" Then have them choose a symbol for their graphic to represent what they learned.