

Walking The Path: Lesson One Milestones to a College Degree

“A very great vision is needed and the man who has it must follow it as the eagle seeks the deepest blue of the sky.” *Crazy Horse, Lakota, 1849-1877*

Guiding Questions:

That is my life’s journey?

What will I become?

What are the milestones in my journey?

Lesson Goal

Students will understand that, like any journey, their journey to college and career will take preparation, motivation, and the support of others to succeed.

Short Summary of the Lesson

This lesson introduces students to the college orientation course. Students read two book excerpts describing journeys and compare and contrast the milestones from each, then use the metaphor of journey to create an organizer for the course.

Skills Emphasized

- Reading comprehension
- Compare and contrast
- Creating metaphors
- Journal writing

Lesson Design

Begin the lesson by having students read the two selections – “Anna” from *Shadows on the Koyokuk* by Sidney Huntington and excerpts from “Coming Home” from *First Person First Peoples* by Arvo Quetone Mikkanen. Have students identify the different stages of the journeys made by Anna and Arvo. Ask them to compare and contrast the outcomes of the two journeys by discussing these questions:

- What motivated Anna and Arvo to take their journeys?
- What did Anna do to prepare for her journey? What did Arvo do?
- Who did they look to for support and advice on their journeys?
- What important decisions did they have to make? What and who helped them make their decisions?
- How are these journeys alike? How are they different?
- How do these journeys connect to your journey through high school, college and career?

Next, as a class, select a metaphor for your journey to college (ascent of a mountain, desert crossing, coastline voyage, etc.). Each lesson will be a milestone on the map you create. Once the class has decided, have each student create a map (visual of the metaphor) on which to place their milestones. Create a larger visual to use in the classroom as a map of the college orientation course.

Remind students the origin of the word milestone was a stone marker used in ancient Rome to mark distance along roads. Relate this to the steps in their journey to a college degree. Place the milestones (lesson titles) on the class map to show the lessons in the course they will be taking.

Continue the journey metaphor as you give students a journal (3-ring binder, spiral notebook from your college partner). Tell students the class is about to undertake a journey together – the journey to college and career. Along the way, they will be keeping a journal – of what they see and do, what they feel, and questions they have along the path. At the end of the course, they will be using their journals to teach others about their journey. The first entry in their journal will be a reflection on today's lesson.

Day One

Our journey to college and career began today. Today we learned...

People who take journeys through college are motivated by many things. I'm motivated to _____ because _____.

I know that you have to be prepared to start a journey. To be prepared for my college journey I need to...

Anna and Arvo had people who supported them on their journeys. My possible advisors could be....