

Walking The Path: Lesson 7

Financing College

“The hero’s journey always begins with the call. One way or another, a guide must come to say, ‘look, you’re in Sleepy Land. Wake. Come on a trip. There is a whole aspect of your consciousness, your being, that’s not been touched. So you’re at home here? Well, there’s not enough of you there.’ and so it starts.”

Joseph Campbell
1904-1987

Guiding Question:

How will I fund my journey to college and career?

Lesson Goal

Students will understand that every journey incurs costs, but finding resources is not an impossible task.

Short Summary of Lesson

In this lesson, students will learn the cost of attending college and how to find scholarships, federal assistance and other ways to fund their college journey.

Skills Emphasized

- Internet research
- Planning for future goals

Materials needed

- Computer lab (or enough computers for small groups to work together)
- Post High School Plan worksheet
- Funding Your Future handout

Lesson Design

Begin the lesson by asking students to brainstorm the total cost of going to college. Chart responses, then go to at least three college websites (public, private, community college) to compare their answers to actual costs.

Remind students that every journey takes money. One of the skills they should learn is how to find the funds necessary to complete their college journeys. Have students go to www.fastweb.com and register. Then, have them identify one or two scholarships and download the necessary forms and information for future reference. Have partners share the types of scholarships they found based on their registration information.

Next, ask students to select one college they may be interested in attending and visit the college’s website. Ask them to find the costs for their college and any scholarships listed on the college website that may apply to them. Have them fill out the Post High School Plan as they find information in their search.

Finally, show the class the Free Application for Federal Student Aid website (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and have them download the web worksheets. Tell them the importance of completing the forms each year, the deadline for doing so, and what documents they and their parents will need to have in order to complete the forms. Have students fill out the sections of the web worksheet appropriate to them, and put all worksheets from today's lesson in their journal.

Have students reflect on today's lesson in their journal.

Day Seven

It takes a lot of resources to fund a journey to college and career. Today I learned it's not impossible to find the money necessary to finance my dream journey. I learned...

One step I will take...