

Session Plan

Choosing a College: What's Important?

Area: College Readiness

Time: 45 Minutes

Standards: Acquire Knowledge; Students will develop their own personal criteria for selecting a college.

Purpose/Goal:

The purpose of this workshop is to allow students to identify characteristics of a college that are most important to them and apply this knowledge to their college research.

Materials Needed:

- White board and dry erase markers, or Smart Board
- Chart Paper
- Color Markers
- Blank Letter size paper
- Access to computers for Plan to Succeed (or the opportunity to schedule students for a follow-up session that includes accessing the ILP on Plan to Succeed)

Evidence of Growth:

Students will be able to apply the criteria they've developed to complete the *College Matching Assistant* assessment on their Individual Learning Plan in Plan to Succeed.

Agenda

Opening	10 -15 minutes
Activity/Content	20 minutes
Closing Connection	10 minutes

Activities

- Guiding Questions: *What are some things that you think are important when choosing the right college for yourself?*
 - Draw a circle with the words “What’s Important?” inside it.
 - As students mention what is important to them, jot down their responses. Students should be mentioning things like:
 - Cost
 - Location
 - Majors offered
 - Child care
 - Reputation of college
 - Sports or activities offered

- Once you have at least 5-10 things to choose from, pass out one sheet of letter-sized paper and one marker to each student
- **Ask students:** *“If you could only choose one of these characteristics, which would be most important to you?”*
 - Have each student write down the one characteristic they feel is most important on their paper (ask them not to show their selections)
 - Once they have written down one characteristic, have each student share their choice with the larger group.
 - Group students based on their selection (all students with the same choice in one group (or multiple groups if too many students chose the same characteristic)) and provide each group one piece of chart paper and a marker. Instruct each group to list five advantages to choosing a college based on the characteristic they've chosen, and five disadvantages.
 - Ex: If the characteristic is “Majors Offered” then an advantage to choosing the college might be that the student will definitely be able to classes that interest his/her. A disadvantage might be that by choosing a college just for the majors offered they might change their major at some point and find themselves at a college without a wider range of options.
 - Have a representative from each group share their chart paper with the larger group. As they share, ask them clarifying questions, respond to questions they may have, and encourage the other students to ask them questions.

Closing

Students will filter their college search results in their Individual Learning Plan in Plan to Succeed using the characteristics they've identified as most important to them during the activity.

**Please be sure that students save their search results to revisit during individual sessions.