

Session III: What to Expect in College & Employment

Deciding Your Future Student Workshop

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In this workshop, students discuss and engage in tasks centered on postsecondary options. Through interactive activities, students review the pros and cons of common postsecondary choices, analyze the different realities of high school versus college, examine ways to pay for college, and discuss documentation needed for postsecondary support services. The goal of the first part of the workshop is to facilitate student-driven decision making related to the options, barriers, supports, and realities of life after high school. The second portion of the workshop focuses on social security benefits and vocational programs offered at City Colleges of Chicago. Students are encouraged to research vocational programs online using a graphic organizer for information on classes, certification types, and requirements. This workshop can be separated into two sessions.

Outline of Content:

I. Deciding Your Future

- Activity: Deciding Post-Secondary Options Walkabout
- College Pros & Cons
- Activity: Passing Notes
- Paying for College

II. Looking Toward Employment

- Rights & Responsibilities
- Activity: Myth or Fact?- SSA Benefits
- SSA Work Incentives

III. Vocational Options & Community College

- Activity: Researching City College Options

Supplementary Material:

- Activity: City Colleges of Chicago activity sheet
- Handout: Teacher Workshop Powerpoint
- Activity: Myth Vs. Fact

Tips for Presenting:

1. Introduce the presentation and objectives.
2. Briefly discuss the various options with students but don't go in-depth until after the walkabout activity.
3. Have posters spread around the room with markers. Each poster lists a different post-secondary option.
4. In groups of 3, students spend a few minutes writing what they have experienced or want to know about the option on the poster. Students move to the next poster and repeat the activity until each group circles back to their original poster.
5. Instruct students to stand next to the poster that representing the option they want for their future. Students discuss amongst themselves then share out in whole group debrief. Use slide "Deciding post-secondary options" to help guide discussion.
6. Using the next 5 slides, review the pros and cons of different educational options and discuss differences between high school and college.
7. Students get into groups of 4. Students fold a blank sheet of paper in fourths and write 1-4 in the four corners. Students respond to the writing prompts on "Passing Notes" slide. Students fold the paper, pass it to their left, read the next students' writing and comment in box 2. This continues until the students get their original sheet back. Discuss in small groups.
8. Briefly review documentation needed for college support services and ways to pay for college.
9. Discuss the general options for employment and social security benefits. Review rights and responsibilities in the work environment.
10. Conduct myth versus fact exercise using attached worksheet.
11. Review local city college vocational programs.
12. Students practice researching programs using activity sheet with explicit directions.
13. Conclude with silent, independent reflection activity using the final slide. This final activity can also be a whole group, small group, or partner discussions.

