



LifeSmarts U - Personal Finance Lesson

Choosing a College Major - Getting to Know the College

Lesson Description:

Day 2 of the College Majors lesson, titled "Getting to Know the College/Major," guides students in exploring colleges and universities to determine if they align with their academic and personal preferences, values, and career aspirations. This lesson empowers students to make informed decisions about their higher education journey.

Lesson Objectives:

- **Exploring Colleges:** Understand the significance of researching colleges and universities to ensure they align with personal preferences, values, and career goals.
- **Evaluating Majors:** Learn how to evaluate academic majors based on curriculum, faculty expertise, and potential career opportunities to make informed decisions.

Time:

Day 2 - 90 minutes (120 minutes if using additional resources provided)

Background:

High school students approaching college face a pivotal moment in their lives, where decisions about majors, universities, and career paths can have far-reaching consequences. By providing them with the knowledge and tools to make informed choices, we empower these young adults to navigate the complex terrain of higher education, ensuring they embark on a journey aligned with their personal values, passions, and long-term goals. This lesson will foster responsible decision-making and help prepare students for the transformative experience of college.

Materials:

- Introduction - Review of Day 1 and Look ahead to Day 2
- Vocabulary List - Day 2 (**Print Handout**)
- Presentation w Speaker Notes (available in Powerpoint and Google Slides formats)
- Video Link - "How to Choose the Perfect College"
- Student/Partner Activity - "Find Me a College!" (**Print Worksheet**)
- Handout - What to Ask the University (**Print Handout**)
- Exit Ticket/Reflection - "Listen to Your Gut" (**Print Worksheet**)
- Additional Resource - Discussion Prompt - "Major Match"
- Additional Toolbox Links



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Day 2 - Procedures

- 1. Introduction** - Read the summary of Day 1 learning and what the lesson will involve on Day 2.
- 2. Vocabulary** - Review vocabulary terms and acronyms for Day 2. These are all terms that will be vital for students to know as they are working their way through the college application process.
- 3. Presentation "Getting to Know the University/Major"** - Day 2 of the "A Major Decision" lesson delves into understanding the importance of majors and how they shape academic journeys, helping students evaluate potential majors and connect them with future career opportunities. It also emphasizes the significance of college tours, preparing for them effectively, and asking the right questions during visits to make informed decisions.
- 4. Video** - This video entitled "How to Choose the Perfect College" reinforces many of the ideas that have been presented already. (If time is tight, you can skip the video)
- 5. Activity - "Find me a College!"** - This activity is designed to help students reverse engineer the college decision-making process. By starting with their desired career and working backward to find suitable colleges and majors, students develop a deeper understanding of how to align their interests, passions, and priorities with their higher education choices, while also practicing valuable online research skills.
- 6. Handout - "What to Ask the University"** - Take a few minutes to review this handout which provides a comprehensive list of questions to consider and ask when researching and evaluating potential colleges.
- 7. Exit Ticket/Reflection** - The culminating writing assignment asks students to "Listen to their gut." Consider everything you've learned over the past two days of lessons... what is it telling you about your future and what might be the right college and major for you?

Additional Resources

Group Activity/Discussion "Major Match" - In the "Major Match" activity, students participate in an engaging exercise to brainstorm and share potential career options associated with different college majors, fostering a better understanding of the diverse opportunities that each major can offer. This activity encourages critical thinking and exploration of various career paths related to different academic fields.

Toolbox Links - Incorporates a diverse range of hyperlinked articles, interactive online quizzes, and an informative video to support students in their individual journey of self-discovery.