TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 10-23 ▲ CONDUCTING THE COLLEGE SEARCH IN 10TH GRADE

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| **GRADE LEVEL FOCUS***Because of the importance of this topic, this lesson spirals itself each year from 8th through 12th grade, with a combination of consistent content and new content.* |
| The focus for the College Search Lesson is as follows:* *Grade 8: Introduction to College Search*
* *Grade 9: Awareness of College Options*
* *Grade 10: Conducting the College Search and Comparing College Options*
* *Grade 11: Conducting a College Search*
* *Grade 12:* *Choosing Your College*

FACILITATOR NOTE: Assume a very broad definition of college to include any postsecondary learning option (two-year community and technical colleges, four-year universities, certificate programs, military training, or apprenticeships). |

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Student will identify the major college entrance exams.
* Students will register at the College Board web site and research one college.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* College Research
* **Projector** to share College Board website ([www.collegeboard.org](https://www.collegeboard.org))
* **Computer(s) with internet Access** for students to register with the College Board

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

*Grade 10 Focus: Conducting a College Search and Comparing Options*

*Since this lesson spirals (repeats itself with differing focus areas from grade to grade), a recommended emphasis for 9th grade is to have students become aware of college options and entrance requirements.*

1. **Review the college entrance exams.** Distribute the *College Research Handout* and review the first page with students. If you wish, divide students into three groups (one each for four-year college, two-year community and technical colleges, four-year universities, certificate programs, military training, or apprenticeships), and ask them to research one of the exams listed on the handout. Give them 5 minutes and then call the group back to compare notes. At many schools, sophomores are given the opportunity to take the PSAT, which is the precursor to the SAT. If your school will be doing this, let students know how and when they can register.
2. **Introduce the College Board web site and help students register.** The College Board web site ([www.collegeboard.org](https://www.collegeboard.org)) is a rich resource for students and their families. Among other things, it allows students to: (1) register for the SAT exam (PSAT and AP registration must be done at school); (2) research colleges and majors and save that information for later use; (3) learn about financial aid; and (4) learn how to apply to college. Tour the site using a projector, if possible. Then help students create their own accounts by following the instructions on the *College Research Handout*.
3. **Use College Board web site to research opportunities.** Next, have students complete the rest of the handout to learn about colleges that might be interesting to them. (Note: students can complete this step even if they do not register.) Ask them to take notes on one possible college. If you wish, ask them to go to the college’s web site and sign up to receive printed information.

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

1. **Completed *College Research* Handout**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* **FACILITATOR NOTES**

Your school might wish to hold a College Night for students and their families, where they could hear from school counselors, graduates of your high school, or admissions officers from local colleges. In addition, you may wish to share the following resources to help students and their families learn more about preparing for, applying to, attending, and paying for college.

**Career and College Planning**

* **Washington Career Bridge**

<http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/>

Helps students in Washington State find the education and training they need for the job they want via career interest exploration, job trend and education information.

* **College Board**

[https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers#](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers)

College Board’s Big Future

* **Washington Career Pathways**

<http://washingtoncareerpathways.org/>

* **NCES**

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Navigator

* **Know How 2 Go**

[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)

College planning resources

* **First in the Family**

[www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)

College planning resources

* **Check Out a College**

[www.checkoutacollege.com](http://www.checkoutacollege.com)

College planning information

**Financial Aid Resources**

* **Washington Student Achievement Council**

[www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview)

Overview of financial aid in WA State

* **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Official site for information and FAFSA application.

* **Ready, Set, Grad’s Washington Application for State Financial Aid**

[readysetgrad.org/WASFA](http://readysetgrad.org/WASFA?_ga=1.168581670.603567252.1432686586)

WASFA – Financial Aid for undocumented students

* **FAFSA Information for Counselors and Mentors**

[financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/2017-18-fafsa-updates-counselors.pdf](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/2017-18-fafsa-updates-counselors.pdf)

New financial aid timeline for Seniors

* **National College Access Network**

[www.collegeaccess.org/EarlyAwarenessMiddle](http://www.collegeaccess.org/EarlyAwarenessMiddle)

Early Awareness for Middle Grades

TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 10-23 STUDENT HANDOUT

 COLLEGE RESEARCH

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No matter what you plan to do after high school, you will probably have to take at least one exam. Here is a list of the main college entrance exams. Students can also use High School Smarter Balance Scores for college placement.

**FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE**

* **SAT.** The SAT measures reading, writing, and math. Each section is scored out of a total of 800 points for a total of 2400. The PSAT is usually taken first to help students prepare for the SAT. Learn more and register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).
* **ACT.** The ACT measures English, math, reading, science, and writing. The top composite score for all subjects is 36. Learn more and register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).
* **SAT Subject Exams.** Students can take subject exams in 20 different subjects in English, history, languages, math, and science. Learn more and register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

**TWO-YEAR COLLEGE (Each Community College requires their own placement test, so please check their website for information about placement tests.) An example is below:**

* **ACCUPLACER.** Many community and technical colleges require students to take a placement test before they can register for classes. One such test is the ACCUPLACER, which measures reading, writing, and math. Learn more about this or other specific exams or processes (e.g. Smarter Balanced Assessment, Bridge to College Courses for English or Math), through sites such as [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

**MILITARY**

* **ASVAB.** The ASVAB measures your aptitude in a variety of academic and career areas and determines if you are eligible to enlist in the military. Learn more at [www.military.com/ASVAB](http://www.military.com/ASVAB).

**REGISTER AT THE COLLEGE BOARD WEB SITE**

To begin your college search, it is important to research colleges and programs. One easy way to do this is by registering at the College Board web site. To do this: (1) Go to [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). (2) Click on “Students.” (3) Click on “Sign Up” under “My Organizer.” Enter a log-in name and password and then enter information about yourself.

**CONDUCT COLLEGE RESEARCH**

Go to the College Board web site ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) then click on “Students.” Then click on “Find a College” and locate a college either by typing in its name or by completing the search process. Then complete this page.

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| **INFORMATION TO RESEARCH** | **FINDINGS** |
| A college I might like to attend |  |
| Location |  |
| Type of school (private/public) |  |
| Degrees offered |  |
| Application deadline |  |
| Financial aid deadline |  |
| Percent of applicants admitted |  |
| Middle 50% SAT Critical Reading scores |  |
| Middle 50% SAT Math scores |  |
| Middle 50% SAT Writing scores |  |
| Middle 50% ACT Composite score |  |
| In-state tuition and fees |  |
| Out-of-state tuition and fees |  |
| Most popular majors |  |
| What interests me about this college |  |