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| Lesson Name: | College Application & Financial Aid: The Next Steps |
| Grade Level(s): | 12th |
| Goal/Objective(s): | * Students will learn the next steps after receiving their Financial Aid Package and admission information. * The lesson is to be conducted in April after students have started receiving their Financial Aid Packages. * Students will understand and learn the components of a Financial Aid Package. * Students will compare and evaluate financial aid offers from different colleges. * Students will review the different types of aid and evaluate their pros and cons. |
| Standard(s): | * SS.12.C.1: strive to become vigilant, informed citizens who actively participate in the preservation and improvement of American government through community service and service-learning (examples include individual service projects, patriotic events, mock trials, group initiatives, community volunteerism). * SS.12.E.10: examine the advantages and disadvantages of different types of consumer debt to make sound financial decisions (e.g., home loans, credit card debt, automobile loans, pay-day loans and rent-to-own). * SS.12.E.11: develop the knowledge and practices of a savvy consumer who knows consumer rights and responsibilities, can identify and avoid fraudulent practices and guard against identify theft. * SS.12.E.12: assess and develop financial habits that promote economic security, stability and growth * SS.11-12.L.7: integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem. * SS.11-12.L.16: conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. |
| Instructions: | Rationale: This lesson is to help students evaluate and understand their Financial Aid Package. It is also designed to help students get answers to their questions about the next steps to college such as: housing, orientation, sending final transcripts, etc.  Activity 1:   * Conduct a review of the types of financial aid and their strengths and weaknesses by utilizing Activity 2 in the Financial Aid 101 lesson.   Activity 2:   * Begin by explaining to students a Financial Aid Package. Utilize the Financial Aid 101 tool under the ‘Financial Aid Planning’ tab on CFWV. * Show students a sample Financial Aid Package and explain the components and how to compare it with the tuition and housing costs found on the College Information Sheet from the College Application 101 lesson. You can find sample Financial Aid Packages/Award Letters at: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/sample-financial-aid-award-letters.pdf> (From the College Board) * Students who have received a Financial Aid Package are to determine their total out-of-pocket cost to attend each school to which they have applied and received a Financial Aid Package. * Make sure that students save all information in their portfolio on CFWV. * Go over and explain section 5 of Financial Aid 101 under the ‘Financial Aid Planning’ tab on CFWV. Make sure to reiterate the stress the importance of student loan responsibility and satisfactory academic progress.   Activity 3:   * This will serve as a group discussion/sounding board for students to ask and get help with questions they still have surrounding the application, admission, or financial aid processes. * Have students write two questions they still have on an index card about admissions, applications, financial aid, etc. They are not to write their name. * Divide the class into small groups and distribute an equal number of cards to each group. Each group is to find the best answer they can to the questions and report back to the whole class. * Teachers need to ensure that answers students provide to the whole class are accurate and factual. Be prepared to correct wrong information. Students will need access to the Internet, CFWV, and individual college webpages. * Teachers need to be prepared for questions ranging from housing, orientation, placement tests, etc. You may want to have a counselor help you facilitate this session. * Teachers can provide assessment based on participation of the group discussion. |
| Materials: | * Technology/Internet * CFWV * Index Cards * Student Financial Aid Packages * Sample Financial Aid Package |
| CFWV Tools Used: | * Financial Aid 101 * Financial Aid Planning * Financial Aid ‘Your Plan’ * Portfolio |
| Assessment: | - Can be conducted through a participation grade on activity 3. |