

Section 3: Think You Can't Go to College Lesson Plan

Materials:

Think You Can't Go to College worksheet on page 16 in this manual (page 8 in the student workbook)

How to Get on the Path to College worksheet on page 17 in this manual (page 9 in the student workbook)

Large sheets of white paper for every two students.

Goals:

Students will learn that they can go to college and that there are things they can do to prepare for college and get on a college pathway.

Time:

50 minutes

Instructions:

Worksheets: Think You Can't Go to College and How to Get on the Pathways to College

1. Have students turn to the "Think You Can't Go to College?" and "How to Get on the Pathways to College" worksheets in the student manual. Have students work in pairs. Assign students a scenario to start reading. When they finish reading their assigned scenario, they should continue reading. (The idea is to give them enough time to read half of the tips, yet have all of the tips read by different students in the class.)
2. Assign students to work in pairs and make a poster about one of the tips. Tell them they will be sharing the poster with the class. Their job is to help the class understand the assigned tip. Posters should be creative in getting across the assigned tip. Tell them they have 15 minutes to make the poster. They will then have a few minutes to get feedback before they finish their final posters. Give them a five-minute warning. Alternatively, the posters can be assigned as homework.
3. Have students share their posters with the pair of students next to them. Once they have given each other feedback, give them another 10 minutes to finish their posters. Put the posters up around the class.
4. Have pairs share their posters with the whole class until the class is over. Any students who haven't shared can be put on a list to share over the next few days, whenever time allows. If the poster was assigned as homework, have pairs present their posters with the whole class the next day.

Think you can't go to college? **Yes, you can!**



College is too hard for me!

NOT YOU, TOO! Most students worry about not being good enough for college, so you're not alone. One idea: In high school, don't just study...learn how to study! Most good students have strategies for studying. Once you learn how to study, chances are you'll do fine. Still need help? Professors and tutors are available to help.



I've been in school for 12 years. That's enough! I just want a good job.

GIVE COLLEGE A CHANCE! It's not like high school or junior high. For one thing, in college you pick a major (a subject area that you want to learn about). Just remember...the best jobs and salaries go to college graduates.



I can't go to college! No one in my family has ever gone.

YES, YOU CAN! In every family someone has to be the first. Why not you? True, being first can be hard. You might have to explain to your family why college is important to you. On the other hand, being the first from your family to go to college might be a source of pride for you and your family.



I can't go to college! I don't know what I want to do with my life.

JOIN THE CROWD! Thousands of college freshmen don't know what they want to major in or what career they want. That's how college helps. It exposes you to all sorts of subjects you've never heard of before. College is a great place to learn more about careers you'll love for life.



I can't go to college! I am an immigrant with no legal documents.

YES, YOU CAN! Tell your middle and high school counselor that you want to go to college. Let them know that you want to know what classes to take, what you need to do to apply, and how you can contact a college representative. People from all over the world attend college whether or not they are U.S. citizens. Colleges do not discriminate and they welcome students from different ethnic backgrounds and cultures.



I can't go to college, because I can't afford it.

YES, YOU CAN! Many students get financial aid to help pay for their college education, and most of that aid is based on their family's need. You can apply for financial aid, scholarships, grants and loans. Grant money is given for free by the government. Private donors give scholarships to help pay for college. Work-study is money set aside that you would work for. Loans are money that are given that you later would have to pay back. Applying for financial aid is as simple as filling out a form or writing a letter. This means that the less money you have, the more aid you most likely would qualify for.



I can't go to college because I just won't fit in.

NOT SO! Most colleges have students from many backgrounds. Homesick? Need a hand? Look for people with your interests or your background in different student groups. But remember, college is a great place to meet all kinds of people with different lifestyles and backgrounds. The more people you understand and feel comfortable with, the better prepared you'll be for the future ahead.



How to get on the path to college!

Know that YOU CAN go to college even if you are the first in your family to go.

When it's time to apply, ask your counselor or teacher how to complete the college admission application. Remember they have already been through the process and can walk you through it.

You do not need to know what career you want to study in college as soon as you get there. You can take classes in many different subjects in order to figure out what you like the most. Most students change their majors two to three times while in college.

You can create your own path by making it your personal goal. After you set your goal, strategize how to get there. Listen in class, get good grades, join school clubs/sports, volunteer in non-school activities, etc.

Don't be afraid that college will be too hard for you. If you do well in high school and take those skills with you to college, you are already on the right path. If you find that once you are in college your classes are difficult, all you have to do is ask for help. The majority of students in college go to tutoring sessions or join study groups in order to learn what is necessary.

Ask your school counselor for information on different colleges as well as the college entrance exams such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT). The earlier you start researching and visiting colleges, the easier it will be when you apply to college.

Remember what you have learned early in this book: the more education you have, the more opportunities you will have to get a good paying career that you actually enjoy doing. Plus, college is about more than the pay. It's all the fun you will have meeting new people, living in a different place, and learning things that you had never imagined were possible.