

Section 4: College Panel Presentation Lesson Plan

Materials:

College Panel Presentation Question & Answer Worksheet on page 19 of this workbook (page 10 of the student workbook)

1 index card per student

Goal:

Students will have the opportunity to hear the experiences of current college students and to ask them questions.

Time:

45-50 minutes

Instructions:

1. Explain to the students that college students will be coming to their classroom to talk to them and answer their questions about college and what the college students did to help themselves reach their goal of attending college.
2. Instruct students to turn to the “College Panel Presentation Q & A” on page 10 in their workbooks and read the question topics.
3. Review what constitutes an appropriate question and the types of questions that are not appropriate to ask the panel. For example, ask “How many hours do you study?” or “What do you do for fun?” Instruct students to write two questions they would like to ask the college students. Give each student one index card and ask them to choose one of the two questions to write on the card.
4. When the college student panel arrives, ask the college students to introduce themselves and say what college/or university they attend, what career/major they are pursuing and what they did in middle school and high school that helped them prepare for college.
5. Allow your students to ask questions. During the times when no one has a question, select a question from one of the index cards.
6. To close, ask the college students to each share with your students one thing they wish they had known when they were in middle school that would have better prepared them for high school and/or college.

NOTE: *When GEAR UP is no longer at your school, contact our office at least two weeks in advance to arrange a student panel at (831) 459-1816.*

Directions: You will receive information from college students about their experiences. This is your chance to find out what it is like to be a college student. Write down at least two questions from the categories in the box below that you would like the college students to answer.

Choosing a College	Careers
Preparing for College	Classes and Majors
Paying for College	College Life

Question 1:

Question 2:



College Panel Presentation Question & Answers Activity

Materials:

University Life from Students' Perspectives worksheet on page 21 in this workbook (page 11 in the student workbook)

Purpose:

Students will learn and gain insight about different students' experiences and perspectives on university life.

Time:

Can vary depending on available time

Instructions:

1. Have the students read the stories from the "University Life from Students' Perspectives" worksheet in the student workbook. You can dedicate an entire class period or 10-30 minutes to this activity as students can read one or all of the stories in class and then have a class discussion or have them respond to the questions as homework.
2. Have a group discussion or have students answer the questions on a page and then have a group discussion about the student's answers.

Discuss and/or write about the following questions (questions apply to all 3 stories):

- What are some of the barriers and/or challenges that each of these undergraduate students had to overcome in order to attend college?
- What are some of the barriers and/or challenges that you might face in order to go to college? How would you address them?
- Why did they decide to pursue a college education? How will this help them and their family in the long run?
- What or who impacted their decision to go on to college?
- What are some of the things that they all have in common?
- Can you relate to any of them and why?
- What are some of the things that you learned from their experiences?

Section 4: Alternative Activity

University Life from a Student's Perspective

University Life from Students' Perspectives

Juan Manuel Anguiano's Story

My life has changed in different ways. I was born in the United States, but after a few months after my birth, my mother, having a job as a principal of a preschool in Mexico, decided to return to Mexico. I was raised in Mexico and most of my knowledge and memories are from the other side of the frontier. At the age of sixteen, I decided to come to the land of opportunities, the United States. I didn't speak English, but I was never afraid to try. I graduated from Soledad High School two years after I arrived in the United States, speaking just enough English to pass the test required by the state in order to be able to graduate from high school. With not much support from school, but with a lot of courage on my part, and with my family in my heart, I decided to go to college without knowing what it was all about. Now after being in the United States for three years, I'm a student at Hartnell Community College, an instructor of Mexican Ballet Folklore, and with the opportunity that the GEAR UP program at the University of California at Santa Cruz provided me, I'm a tutor at Fairview Middle School. Something that I could say about life is that it doesn't matter what your goals are, what matters is all of the things that you do in order to accomplish them. Leaving family, friends, and valuable things could hurt, but everything will be re-compensated.

Mikala Penson Story

Although my parents did not graduate from college, they always pushed me to be independent and not be influenced by my surroundings. I was raised in Orange County then lived in south central Los Angeles for more than half of my life. I lived a normal life... school, family, friends, and food. At the age of 5, I decided I wanted to be a doctor after reading about Ben Carson, but when I got to high school, I realized that becoming a doctor meant going to college. I had a small problem though... I was scared to go away to college, or go to college at all for that matter. I heard the routine many times before, elementary then middle school, then high school then off to college. My goal was to do well in school so that I could get out of Los Angeles, and see other places in the world. I focused, even with all the normal drama growing up, and not always the best at home life, because in the end, I am the one who has control of my life. I realized that everything I did and do, is my own decision. When I was a senior in high school things looked bleak. I didn't go to the best high school, so a lot of things about college didn't really come up until the last minute. A recruiter came to my high school from UC Santa Cruz, and that was the first time I heard about college. I decided to apply, and my next goal became to get into college. I knew that being close to home, might be distracting with many friends who did not go to college still in Los Angeles. I decided to go away for college once I was accepted, and am glad that I made that decision. Now that I am in my fourth year at UC Santa Cruz as a major in Anthropology and a minor in Biology, I realize that I made the right choice for myself. I want more in life than to just work for someone else. I want to be in control of my own life, and I know with God is on my side, and that I can do it. My goal is to graduate with a degree in Anthropology, and go on to Medical School and become a pediatrician. Even now, I sometimes struggle with focusing, and balancing school, friends, and family. But trust me, it is possible, and it definitely can be done. More than anyone else, you have to believe in yourself, no matter what circumstance you are in. Just like I do everyday.

Edgar Ivan Alcaraz's Story

I come from a town in which your chances for obtaining a higher education are low. Most young adults decide to drop out of high school to enter the work field in order to provide the necessary income for their families. This creates a never-ending cycle within our community. My family was no exception and they too had to sacrifice my brothers' and sisters' education so that they could work. I had no doubt in my mind that I was going to be part of this cycle, up until the point where I met a representative from the Early Academic Outreach Program. It is through them that I became aware of the benefits and the necessary steps to obtaining a higher education. It is then that I realized that my family would benefit more if I pursued a higher education. I no longer saw myself settling for a low paying job that did not utilize my skills. Early in life I discovered that I was good with numbers and in high school my favorite subject was mathematics but I also liked working with people. It is then that I came to the conclusion that I would pursue a career in Business Management. I am now entering my junior year at the University of California at Santa Cruz and have maintained a good academic standing while working two jobs. I consider myself a hard-working, determined young man who has accomplished many goals in life but yet has more to accomplish.