COLLEGE IS IN MY FUTURE

Self Awareness, Study Skills, College Success

College Awareness Curriculum

UC SANTA CRUZ Educational Partnership Center

Creating college bound communities
Dear 7th Grade Students,

This workbook includes some of the most important things you will need to do to prepare you for college. For example: Do you know you can earn a million dollars more in your lifetime if you go to college? Do you know what it costs to live in this world and buy the things you need? That is what the activities in the first section include.

What do you want to be when you grow up? You might get asked that all the time, but have you thought about it seriously? Do you know what skills you will need to do any of the jobs you see out there in the world? The second section will help you think more about a possible future career and figure out what you need to know to have that career.

Did you know you don’t have to be smart to go to college? That is right; you don’t have to be smart. You just have to be willing to work hard and learn some good study habits. The lesson in the third section will help you understand what it means to work hard and to ask for help when you need it, so that you can learn the things you need to know to get into college. You’ll also have an opportunity to make some cool posters for the class with tips on getting on the college pathway.

In the fourth section of this curriculum, you’ll get to learn from some actual students just what college life is like. You’ll get some practice making up questions to ask college students to find out whatever you want to know about going to college.

Every day of your life you make choices. Do I get up now or choose to be late to school? Do I turn in my homework on time or risk getting a bad grade? In the fifth section, you will be asked to set some goals for your future and learn how to make good choices. You’ll learn to use a special organizing tool to help you think through your choices so you’ll know how to make good decisions. If you want to go to college, you’ll have to make good decisions about your future, and if you get off track, learn how to make decisions that get you back on track.

All of these activities are designed to build the knowledge and skills you will need to get on a good pathway toward a college and career of your dreams.
Over a lifetime of work (from ages 25-64), a college graduate, on average, makes almost a million dollars more than a high school graduate. An advanced college degree (5+ years of college) means that you are likely to earn even more. Check out the table below. (Salary information based on 1999 U.S. Census.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School Dropout</th>
<th>High School Diploma</th>
<th>Associate Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor's Degree</th>
<th>Master's Degree</th>
<th>Doctorate Degree (Ph.D.)</th>
<th>Professional Degree (M.D. or J.D.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Income</td>
<td>$1,575</td>
<td>$2,158</td>
<td>$2,750</td>
<td>$3,783</td>
<td>$4,541</td>
<td>$6,783</td>
<td>$8,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Annual Income</td>
<td>$18,900</td>
<td>$25,900</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$45,400</td>
<td>$54,500</td>
<td>$81,400</td>
<td>$99,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Life (ages 25-64)</td>
<td>$766,951</td>
<td>$1,037,759</td>
<td>$1,331,201</td>
<td>$1,838,432</td>
<td>$2,127,947</td>
<td>$3,105,793</td>
<td>$4,015,613</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Some of the things listed are “needs,” meaning that you cannot live without them. Other items are “optional,” meaning that you would like them, but do not need them to live. Please put a check mark next to any of the items that are listed under the “optional” section that you would want. Then indicate next to each section how much you would spend in each category per month. Be sure to line up the decimals.

NEEDS
All cost ranges reflect costs for one person per month.

✓ A place to live (0-$6,000.00) .............................................. $________
  Rent/ Mortgage/ Living with parents
✓ Gas/Electricity/Water Bills ($0-$250.00) ................................... $________
✓ Transportation (0-$1,000.00) ........................................... $________
  Own new/used car/truck, walk, car pool, etc.
✓ Laundry ($0-$50.00) ........................................................ $________
  Cost of doing laundry and laundry supplies
✓ Groceries ($100.00-$500.00) .............................................. $________
  Milk, bread, eggs, etc.
✓ Hygiene Supplies ($0-$500.00) ........................................ $________
  Toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

Needs Subtotal $________

OPTIONAL
All cost ranges reflect costs for one person per month.

❏ Health Insurance ($0-$400.00) ........................................ $________
  $0 if provided by your job
❏ Cell phone or land line phone ($50.00-$100.00) ........................ $________
❏ Car Insurance ($0-$300.00) ........................................ $________
  If you lease or own a vehicle
❏ Hair Cut ($0-$350.00) ......................................................... $________
  Includes cutting, dying and styling hair
❏ New Clothes ($300.00-$600.00 PER YEAR) ........................ $________
  Shoes, accessories, etc.
  Annual Expense ÷ 12 (months in a year)= monthly expenses.
❏ Pet Expenses ($150.00-$500.00) ........................................ $________
  Veterinarian, food, supplies, etc.
❏ Cosmetics ($0-100.00) ......................................................... $________
  Cologne, perfume, hand lotion, makeup, etc.
❏ Entertainment ($100.00-$800.00) ........................................ $________
  Movies, music, cable, Internet, going out to eat, etc.
❏ Vacation trip to _______________ ($300.00-$10,000.00) .......... $________
❏ Furniture ($300.00-$10,000.00) ........................................ $________
  Annual Expense ÷ 12 (months in a year)= monthly expenses.
❏ Other ........................................................................ $________

Optional Subtotal $________

RESULTS
Monthly Earnings = $________
(Write monthly earnings based on your level of education)

Total Monthly Expenses = $________
(Add subtotals from the Needs and Optional sections.)

Total Money Left Over = $________
(Subtract your total monthly expenses from your monthly earnings.)

MONTHLY INCOME RESULTS:

• Money Left Over:
You have extra money left over after your monthly expenses are paid. You can either save the money or spend it on other things.

• Your Monthly Income Didn’t Cover your Monthly Expenses:
You don’t earn enough money to cover all of your monthly expenses. You must decrease your optional items until you get to a point where you can pay for everything you need.
**THE JOB/CAREER HUNT IS ON!**

**Job vs. Career**

A *job* is work that you do to earn money; you probably do not have a real passion for what you are doing. Most likely there is no real opportunity for you to move up in the work place.

A *career* is work that you do because it is important to you. A career gives you the opportunity to challenge yourself and be promoted, or move up in your field. You may work for different employers but always with the same goal in mind.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receptionist</th>
<th>Lawyer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer phone calls, take messages, attend meetings, take notes, run various errands for Director. High school diploma required.</td>
<td>Energetic, hard-working and dependable lawyer needed for downtown firm. Law degree required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10.65 hourly</td>
<td>$53.55 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$22,150 yearly</td>
<td>$102,820 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Server</th>
<th>Nurse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nice friendly person with at least two years experience needed. No high school diploma required.</td>
<td>Must have a nursing license and be registered in California. Must work at night. Opportunity for day shift will open soon. Must be personable and dependable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Wednesday-Sunday</td>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6.75 hourly</td>
<td>$26.28 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$12,960 yearly</td>
<td>$54,670 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Housekeeper</th>
<th>Hair Stylist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help wanted to clean three stories of rooms everyday. Must be reliable and trustworthy. No high school diploma required.</td>
<td>Valid California hair stylist license required. At least two years of experience. Must be reliable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Part-time: Thursday-Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$9.91 hourly</td>
<td>$11.53 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,305 yearly</td>
<td>$22,142 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Professor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid California credential authorizing service as a math teacher required. Five years of college required.</td>
<td>An opening to teach economics to undergraduate students and conduct research on the subject. Ph.D. in global economics required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cashier</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One year’s experience preferred. Must be trustworthy and have good customer service skills. High school diploma required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time: Wednesday-Sunday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7.82 hourly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,130 yearly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here are some more jobs that people are hiring for...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Psychologist</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bank Teller</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will work with underage children from various backgrounds. Requires M.A. in child psychology.</td>
<td>Must be personable and reliable. Will work front window. High school diploma required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Full-time: Tuesday-Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40.84 hourly to start</td>
<td>$10.24 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$84,950 yearly to start</td>
<td>$21,300 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mechanic</strong></th>
<th><strong>Architect</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level three mechanic needed at M &amp; O Auto Repair. Must have at least one year of experience. Associate of Arts degree in mechanics required.</td>
<td>Opening to design homes in Hollywood, California. Master’s degree and architectural license required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$28.22 hourly</td>
<td>$35.45 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$54,182 yearly</td>
<td>$73,740 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bookkeeper</strong></th>
<th><strong>Doctor-Surgeon</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Associate of Arts degree in bookkeeping required.</td>
<td>Performs surgery to prevent and correct injuries, deformities and diseases, or to improve patient function, appearance or quality of life. Requires a degree in medicine from an accredited school and license to practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$14.18 hourly</td>
<td>$36.57- $48.10 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$76,070- $100,040 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Civil Engineer</strong></th>
<th><strong>Grocery Clerk</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perform engineering duties in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of building structures and facilities such as roads, railroads, airports, bridges, harbors, power plants, water, and sewage systems. Master of Science degree in civil engineering required.</td>
<td>Responsibilities include: bagging, stocking, and loading cars. No high school diploma required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Full-time: schedule changes regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$36.57- $48.10 hourly</td>
<td>$6.75 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$76,070- $100,040 yearly</td>
<td>$12,960 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Firefighter</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will work for the City Fire Department. Must be certified and have a high school diploma or its equivalent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time: Sunday-Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$27.02 hourly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$56,210 yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**College is in My Future – 7th Grade Edition**

**Family Activities**

- **Volunteer Experience**
  A person working for another in order to learn a trade. Sample jobs include electrician, plumber, carpenter, photographer, or machinist.

**Social Experiences**

- **Apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training**
  Upon completion, you earn a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED). Sample jobs include food service worker, bank teller, or file clerk.

**Graduate/Professional School (1-4 years)**

- **Vocational and Technical**
  Schools offer instruction in one or more skilled trades or occupations (especially the manual, health care, and computer technology trades). Students earn a certificate of completion. You also can learn technical or vocational occupations. Sample jobs include dental assistant, power plant operator, car mechanic, or real estate agent.

- **Community or Junior College (2-year)**
  Allows you to take general education courses (math, science, writing, etc.) to transfer to a 4-year university or college. In addition, upon completion of requirements you can receive an Associate degree. You can also earn a technical or vocational certificate. Sample jobs include computer programmer, legal assistant, police officer, or bookkeeper.

**College/University (4-year)**

- Upon completion, you earn a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED). Sample jobs include food service worker, bank teller, or file clerk.

- Prepares you in any area of study to guide your ability to make informed decisions. You receive a Bachelor’s degree upon completion of the college or university graduating requirements. Sample jobs include accountant, journalist, teacher, social worker, or graphic designer.

**Where Can You Learn Job-Related Skills?**

- **High School**
  - **College or University (2-year)**
    - Allows you to take general education courses (math, science, writing, etc.) to transfer to a 4-year university or college. In addition, upon completion of requirements you can receive an Associate degree. You can also earn a technical or vocational certificate. Sample jobs include computer programmer, legal assistant, police officer, or bookkeeper.

- **Community or Junior College (2-year)**
  - **College or University (4-year)**
    - Prepares you in any area of study to guide your ability to make informed decisions. You receive a Bachelor’s degree upon completion of the college or university graduating requirements. Sample jobs include accountant, journalist, teacher, social worker, or graphic designer.
Directions: Fill in the blank with a word that makes the statement true.

You don’t have to be ________________ to go to college! Working hard, doing your homework, listening to your teachers and putting effort in school will enable you to go to college. To prove it, complete the following activity.

Find the value for: ♥, ★, and ✿.

Use the symbols key to substitute the symbols for the value that they equal.

For example, I would substitute all ♦ symbols with a 4.

= 4
= 8
= 3
= 7

♥ = 12
○ = 9
△ = 6
★ = ✿

1. \((\triangle + \circ) ÷ \square = (\lozenge + \circ + \square) ÷ \odot = \)

2. \(\frac{(\odot + \circ + \lozenge + \diamond + \square)}{\square} = \heartsuit\)

3. \(\frac{(\heartsuit + \lozenge + \circ)}{\square} = \star\)

4. \(\left(\frac{\heartsuit + \lozenge}{\odot} \right) - \frac{\star}{\odot} = \ast\)
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.
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
Preparing for College
Paying for College
Careers
Classes and Majors
College Life

Question 1:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Question 2:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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.
**Directions:** Choose a facilitator, recorder, and reporter (If you numbered off, number one is the facilitator who will keep the group on track and make sure everyone contributes. Number two is the recorder who will write the responses. Number three will report out what the groups decides.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things I Want</th>
<th>Things I Don’t Want</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(High Road)</td>
<td>(Low Road)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own a nice car</td>
<td>Never having money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a job I enjoy going to every day</td>
<td>Being in jail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have the freedom to travel wherever I want</td>
<td>Being on drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go to college</td>
<td>Boring job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make over $50,000 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Directions: Okay, you have made it. It is now 10 years after your high school graduation. You have just found the address of a very close friend you had in high school. You haven’t seen each other since graduation. How would you describe your life? What would you say in this letter? Fill in the blanks below.

Dear ______________________,

I can’t believe it’s been 10 years since our high school graduation! So many things have changed for me. After high school I ______________________________ as I had planned. Presently, I am working as a ______________________________. My job is located in ______________________. I am glad I get to wear ______________ to work. The best thing about my job is that I get to ______________________________. However, it is difficult to _________________.

I live in the city of ______________________ in a(n) ______________________ that is really ______________________ and ______________________. I am making $____________________ a year and drive a _______________________. I am ______________________ and I have _______________________ children.

In my spare time, I ________________________, I even took up ______________________ and I’ve gotten good at it. When I get a vacation, I usually go to ________________________. The one thing I wish I could do is _______________________.

Over the years, the thing I’ve come to value most in people is ______________________________. I am really happy with my life because _________________________________.

Oh well, enough about me. Write back soon and tell me what has been going on in your life!

Your friend,
Never give up!
What separates an “A” student from a “D” student? Are the “A” students naturally smarter? No! Students who earn A’s and B’s have figured out a little secret...They never give up! You can learn anything if you try hard enough. Some things may take a little more practice than others but if you keep at it, you will succeed.

Study hard
So you’ve decided to put forth the effort – great! As you’ve learned in this workbook, the more education you have, the more money you will make. An education will open up so many opportunities for you that you’ve never imagined.

Listen to advice
Now that you know what college life is about and some things that you can do to be successful in middle school and college, listen to the college student’s advice. They have gone through what you are going through and learned what it takes to get into college.

Make the right choices
You have to make choices every day of your life...make sure you make the right choices. In the last section of the curriculum you learned some tools to help you think through your choices so you’ll know how to make good decisions. Use them.

Explore your options!
Learn about the choices you have for higher education including:
- The University of California
- California State University
- Independent/Private Colleges and Universities
- Community Colleges
Each is different and one is right for you!

Ask your counselor for more information or visit these Web sites:

http://www.californiacolleges.edu/
This site is a great place to start. You can compare colleges from all of the systems based on what you want in a college. The site also includes college and career search questionnaires to help you start planning your future today.

http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/
Want to find out more about one of the University of California (UC) campuses? This Web site has links to all the UC campuses and explains the UC admission requirements.

http://www.csumentor.edu/
Interested in one of the California State University (CSU) campuses? This Web site is all about the CSUs. It includes campus information and admission requirements.

http://www.aiccu.edu/
This Web site has links to the private schools in California. Each private school has separate admissions requirements so follow the links to the school you are interested in to find out what you need to do to prepare.

http://www.cccco.edu/
Want to find out more about a community college? This Web site has links to all of them.
College is in My Future –
GEAR UP/EAOP College Awareness Curriculum
7th Grade Curriculum Survey

Please complete the following survey. The information you give us will help us improve the curriculum.

School: ________________________________ Teacher’s Name: ________________________________
Grade: ______________________ I am: □ Female □ Male

1. Has anyone from your school ever spoken with you about college requirements (SAT or ACT tests) or the courses that you need to take in high school to prepare for college?
   □ a. Yes □ b. No

2. Has anyone from your school ever spoken with you about the financial aid available (money you can apply for) to help your family pay for college?
   □ a. Yes □ b. No

3. What is the highest level of education that you plan to achieve?
   ___ a. Less than high school
   ___ b. High school diploma only
   ___ c. Associate degree from 2-year community college (A.A.)
   ___ d. Bachelor’s degree from 4-year college or university (B.A., B.S.)
   ___ e. Master’s degree (M.A., M.S.)
   ___ f. Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D.)

4. Do you think that you could afford to attend a public 4-year college using financial aid, scholarships, and your family’s resources (family wages or savings)?
   ___ a. Definitely
   ___ b. Probably
   ___ c. Not Sure
   ___ d. Probably Not
   ___ e. Definitely Not

5. What career or profession would you like to have when you finish school?
   ____________________________________________

6. Do you know how much education you need for this career?
   □ a. Yes □ b. No

7. With a college degree you will probably:
   ___ a. Earn more money than a person without a college degree
   ___ b. Have more job choices than you would without a college degree
   ___ c. Be promoted, or be able to “move up” in your career
   ___ d. All of the above
   ___ e. None of the above
College is in My Future –
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7th Grade Curriculum Survey

8. The first degree a student usually earns at a 4-year college or university is:
   ___ a. Master’s degree
   ___ b. Bachelor’s degree
   ___ c. Associate degree
   ___ d. Diploma
   ___ e. Doctorate/Professional degree

9. To go to a 4-year college or university you must:
   ___ a. Have a lot of money
   ___ b. Know exactly what you want to do for a career
   ___ c. Know someone who has gone to college
   ___ d. All of the above
   ___ e. None of the above

10. Is it important to you to graduate from high school? Why or why not?
    □ a. Yes    □ b. No
    ____________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________

11. Do you plan to go to college? Why or why not?
    □ a. Yes    □ b. No
    ____________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________
Supplemental Activity: Job Match

**Directions:** Match the job/career with the highest level of education needed. Draw lines from the jobs listed on the left to the corresponding level of education needed shown on the right side.

- Food Service Worker
- Bank Teller
- Pharmacist
- Graphic Designer
- Computer Programmer
- Pilot
- Medical Doctor
- Radio DJ
- Hairdresser
- Oceanographer
- Lawyer
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Journalist
- Bookkeeper
- File Clerk
- Firefighter
- Counselor
- Architect
- Legal Assistant
- Social Worker

**High School Diploma**

**Vocational and Technical School**

**Associate degree (2 years/Community or junior college)**

**Bachelor’s degree (4 years/University or College)**

**Master’s degree (1-4 additional years after Bachelor’s degree)**
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