



Boys and Girls Club Project ASA and Life Smarts In Charge Financial Literacy Competition

November 2017 Challenge: The College Search and Preparation Experience

Quest: Working as a team and using the provided persona, groups will identify three colleges that would be a good fit, describe why and outline one college application essay.

Due Date: November 30, 2017

Activity Description: This quest familiarizes students with the college search process and provides an opportunity to outline a college application essay.

Activity Objectives:

- Identify one safety, one mid and one reach college or university.
- Describe why each one is a good fit.
- Complete the college application essay outline.

Time

- Two 45-60 minute sessions

Background Resources

- ASA resource: [13 Things to Consider When Choosing a College](#)
- ASA resource: [College Planning \(Choosing A School: Navigating the Options\)](#)

Materials

- College applicant "persona" (2)
 - [Michael](#)
 - [Justine](#)
- [College decision worksheet](#) (safety, mid and reach) school
- [Sample College Application essay](#)
- [ASA College Application guide](#) (PDF)
- [College application essay worksheet](#) (PDF)
- [College Navigator](#) (for college search process)
- College Planning Resources (ASA: <http://www.asa.org/choosing-a-college/>)
- Individual College Websites (your choice)



Procedures

Day 1:

1. Read the provided college applicant “persona” as a group. This is the persona you will use throughout the entire quest. (*time 5 minutes*)
2. Review the [College Planning \(Choosing A School: Navigating the Options\)](#) (*time roughly 15 minutes*)
 - This is a virtual course. If easier, split students into smaller groups.
3. Split the group into three smaller teams. Assign each team one category (safety, mid and reach) college. Each group should search (using various websites) and identify **one** college/university that fits their category and describe why (by answering the questions provided). (*20- 30 minutes*)
 - *Hint: If you are looking for a place to start, check out the “Ideal College/University” list for your college applicant persona. Use these categories as a starting point to find a college for your applicant.*
4. Bring group back together. Ask the following reflection questions (*time 10 minutes*)
 - Thinking about your own college search, what are/will be the most important factors to you as you consider your college choice?
 - Do you have any “must haves” on your list?
 - If cost is a factor, what creative ways might you consider to help bring down those costs?

Day 2:

1. Review the ASA [College Application Essay Guide](#) as a group (*5 minutes*)
2. Break up into small groups (same as day 1). As a small group, complete the college application essay question for your groups’ identified college or university (*40 minutes*)
 - Hint: When writing your essay, check out the College application guide and sample college essay.
3. Bring group back together. Ask the following reflection questions (*5 minutes*)
 - What did your group decide to write about and why?
 - What was the most difficult part of writing this essay?
4. Have your captain (or another student volunteer) [upload your team’s college essay and school choice worksheet.](#)