

# EXPLORING COLLEGE

## FACILITATOR GUIDE



This guide provides activities that reinforce the information in the *Exploring College* publication for 9th and 10th grade students.

Find additional activities, presentation slides, and videos under "Resources for Grades 9-12" in the Professionals section at [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org).

# FINDING THE RIGHT FIT (PAGES 3-4)

## ACTIVITY 1: EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS

**PREP:** Review pages 3-4 in *Exploring College*.

- 1) Ask for volunteers to share what they want to do for a future career and why that career interests them.
- 2) Have students complete Step 1 “Think about your interests and skills” on page 3 of *Exploring College*. Ask for volunteers to share their responses.
- 3) Direct students to answer the questions in the “Tell us what you like to do” section of **MyNextMove.org**. They will then see careers that match their interests. Ask for volunteers to share their results.
- 4) Help students understand what’s involved in pursuing their desired career by instructing them to complete the “Create a Career Plan” activity on page 4 of *Exploring College*.



## ACTIVITY 2: GET A REALITY CHECK

- 1) Direct students to *Reality Check* at **EducationQuest.org**: There are two ways to use the tool:
  - **Select My Expenses:** Students choose their desired housing, transportation, food, clothing, and more as they discover what it costs to support their desired lifestyle after college. *Reality Check* will then show them careers that will pay for their selections.
  - **Select My Career:** Students select a specific career. *Reality Check* then shows the salary for that career. As students select items from each category, it subtracts the cost of those items from their salary.
- 2) As a class, work through a scenario and allow students to call out which option to select for each *Reality Check* category.
- 3) After selecting items from each category, review the Total Expenses page and note how much is needed each month to pay for the desired lifestyle. If time allows, have students run their own scenario of *Reality Check*.
- 4) As a group or individually, discuss or complete the *Reality Check Student Reflection Guide* to help students think about expenses, potential occupations, and future lifestyle changes they may need to consider.



## ACTIVITY 3: RESEARCH COLLEGES

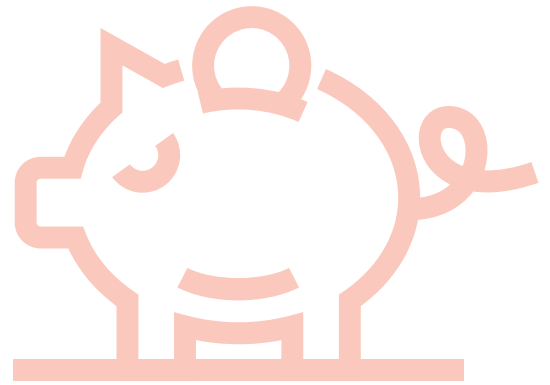
- 1) Direct students to *College Profiles* at [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org). As a group, select categories (e.g. location, school type, size) until you have a manageable number of colleges to consider. Use the “compare” feature to view three colleges at one time.
- 2) Allow students to run *College Profiles* on their own and create a list of schools that interest them.
- 3) Have students complete the *College Profiles Worksheet* to help them compare colleges and eventually narrow down their college choice.

## PAYING FOR COLLEGE (PAGES 5-6)

### ACTIVITY 1: HOW MUCH WILL COLLEGE COST?

**PREP:** Find the “Cost of Education” slides at [eqf.org/COE\\_slides](https://www.eqf.org/COE_slides). Be prepared to show a video.

- 1) Show slides 1 and 2 of the presentation. Describe the types of colleges and explain that “Cost of Education” includes tuition & fees, books & supplies, room & board, and personal & transportation expenses.
- 2) Show slide 3 and have students guess the average cost of tuition & fees for a 4-year public college in Nebraska. Reveal the answer and do the same for the other categories and the total costs for each type of college.
- 3) Show the “4 Ways to Pay...for College!” video at [youtu.be/MFbHoyUJTbM](https://youtu.be/MFbHoyUJTbM). Then, direct students to page 5 of the *Exploring College* publication for descriptions of each type of aid.
- 4) Explain that as seniors, they will apply for federal, state, and college-based financial aid by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).



### ACTIVITY 2: FINANCIAL AID MYTHBUSTERS

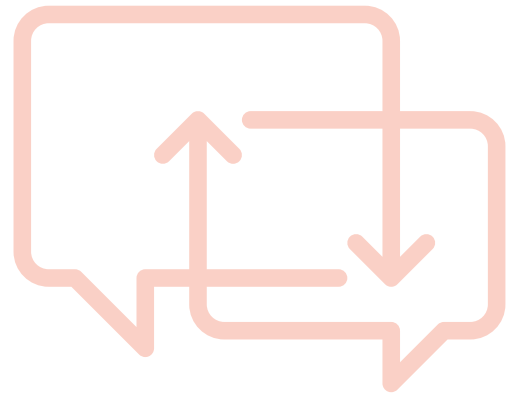
**PREP:** Print one copy of Financial Aid Mythbusters and the Answer Key found at [eqf.org/FAmyths](https://www.eqf.org/FAmyths).

- 1) Ask students questions from the Financial Aid Mythbusters worksheet and have them respond “True or False” before you read from the Answer Key.
- 2) Refer students to the Paying for College section of the *Exploring College* publication (pages 5-6) and briefly discuss each step.

## ACTIVITY 3: BUILD AN ACTIVITIES RESUME

**PREP:** Get familiar with *Activities Resume* at [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org).

- 1) Have students select *MyEducationQuest* in the top right corner of [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org) to access *Activities Resume*. Instruct them to select **SETTINGS** and create a profile. They must remember their email address and password to update their resume in the future.
- 2) As a class, work through **SCHOOLS ATTENDED** to demonstrate how to add items to a resume. To change the Header Information, click **EDIT PROFILE**. Next, have them populate additional categories. They can use the up/down arrows to move categories to customize their resume.
- 3) Have students review their resume by selecting **VIEW**. They can select the resume style they prefer, and then download or email their resume as a PDF or Word document. To return to the input screen, select **EDIT**.
- 4) Encourage students to update their *Activities Resume* each semester of high school so the information will be available when they complete scholarship, college, and job applications.



[EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org)

**QUESTIONS? CALL THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU.**

**Omaha**  
402.391.4033

**Lincoln**  
402.475.5222

**Kearney**  
308.234.6310

**Scottsbluff**  
308.708.7199