

Title: Finding the Right Fit – Exploring College Options

Length of Lesson: 55 minutes

Grade Level: 11th grade

Timeline: Winter (January/February)

ASCA National Standard: C:C2:1 Demonstrate how interests, abilities & achievement relate to achieving personal, social & educational goals

Objective: Students will be able to explore their college options by increasing their awareness of their own academic standing, personal interests, location and environmental preferences, etc. This will allow students to narrow down their list of colleges based on what is the best fit for them as an individual.

Materials: Writing utensils, Finding Your College Matches handouts

Lesson Procedure:

Introduction:

- Sit each student in front of a computer.
- Describe the purpose of the lesson and hand out the “Finding Your College Matches” worksheet. Review the worksheet (providing examples of what potential responses might be). Allow students 10 minutes to complete this worksheet.

Main Activity:

- Instruct students to access the internet on their computer and go to www.collegeboard.com/student. Advise students who already have a college board logon to sign in and for those who don't, quickly guide them through the process of creating an account.

- Once logged in, direct them to the College MatchMaker tool. Indicate they have 30 minutes to use this tool and review their results.
 - Advise students to reference the responses they put down on the worksheet they just completed, when inputting their preferences.
 - Walk around and assist students with individual questions
- Once they receive their results:
 - Instruct them to pick five schools they may be interested in and begin viewing each of their “profiles”.
 - If they feel the school is a good match for them: from the results page, have them add the school to their list of colleges by clicking “Add to List”

Closure:

- Have students print their results. Advise them to use this list as a starting point and to take the time to explore each of the individual college websites. Tell them to find out when there are open houses at the schools that they are most interested or call to set appointments to take a tour of the campuses.



FINDING YOUR COLLEGE MATCHES Brainstorming Worksheet

1) Does the size of the school matter to you? Small, medium or large preference?

2) Do you plan to live at home or on campus? How far away do you want to go?

3) What specific programs and/or fields of study are you interested in?

4) What is your current GPA? How would you rate the rigor of your course load?

5) Do you plan to pursue any specific sports and/or activities at college? If yes, list any below.
