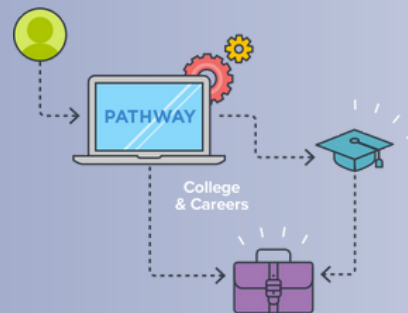


Applying Personal Criteria to the Scholarship Search



Grade Level:



12

Domain:



College & Career Exploration



Financial Literacy

TIME:



30 Minutes

This lesson is designed to help students connect to their culture, family background, interests, and activities to discover available scholarships that match their lives and experiences.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn how to collect information about their culture, family background, interests, and activities.
2. Connect their own culture, family background, interests, and activities to available scholarships.
3. Evaluate the opportunities that exist to help them achieve a postsecondary education.
4. Create a presentation that demonstrates an understanding of their background and the scholarships available.

MEFA Pathway Activities

- My Profile
- My Resume
- Scholarship Search
- My Scholarships

Materials Needed

- Internet connection
- MEFA's article, [Private Scholarships for College Students](#)
- *Group Evaluation of Article* handout (attached)
- *Self & Family Interview for Scholarship Exploration* handout (attached)
- *Scholarship Search Notes* handout (attached)

Lesson Prerequisite

Students should read the article, *Private Scholarships for College Students* before the lesson starts. As they read, they should highlight or underline sections that are new information for them about how to find scholarships and mark any terms they need to understand better. Students should use the tips listed in the article to begin a scholarship search. When they come to class, students should be prepared to discuss the article.

Vocabulary

- Scholarship
- Eligibility
- Requirements
- Financial Aid

Future Ready Skills

- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- Time Management
- Organization

PART 1

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

In-Class Activity



In response to the article and using one (or more) of the recommended ways to search for scholarships, students should get into small discussion groups and answer the following questions on the attached *Group Evaluation of Article* handout:

1. What kinds of scholarships are available that you did not expect? List at least three.
2. What are the important things to know about yourself in order to find relevant scholarships? List at least three.
3. How might knowing your family background, culture, and your interests and activities help you find a scholarship?

After the discussion, the student groups can present the highlights of their discussion to the class.

PART 2

APPLYING INFORMATION

Students should use the attached *Self & Family Interview for Scholarship Exploration* handout to fill in information about themselves and to get information from family members. They will then use this information in MEFA Pathway's **Scholarship Search**.

PART 3

EVALUATING INFORMATION

Students should click on Scholarship Search in the *Financial Planning* tab. Students should use the information collected on their *Self & Family Interview for Scholarship Exploration* handout to apply the appropriate filters in the **Scholarship Search**.

Once results have populated, students should investigate at least three of the scholarships listed. Students should make notes about the scholarships on the attached *Scholarship Search Notes* handout and consider what the application requires and whether they would apply for that scholarship (and explain why if not). Students should add these scholarships to their **My Scholarships** list in MEFA Pathway, where they can view deadlines, update each application status, and notate any awards received.

PART 4

CRITICAL THINKING/CREATIVE APPLICATION

Combining the information collected in their self and family exploration, along with the results of their scholarship search, students should create a PowerPoint presentation that includes the following aspects:

- A title slide
- At least 3–4 images or pictures
- A slide that gives examples of what they discovered about their own family background, culture, or interests
- At least 3 slides that each list:
 - A scholarship that was in their search results
 - Details of that scholarship and the application requirements
 - The reasoning of why or why not the student would apply for it
- A concluding slide detailing the most significant thing learned about scholarships

GROUP EVALUATION OF ARTICLE

Read the article, [*Private Scholarships for College Students*](#) and use one or more of the recommended methods to search for scholarships. In your small group discussion about this article, work together to answer the following questions:

1. What kinds of scholarships are available that you did not expect? List at least three.
2. What are the important things to know about yourself in order to find relevant scholarships? List at least three.
3. How might knowing your family background, culture, and your own interests and activities help you find a scholarship?

SELF & FAMILY INTERVIEW FOR SCHOLARSHIP EXPLORATION

Fill in the following topic areas based on your own knowledge and by interviewing family members who might be able to help with the information.

1. What areas of study after high school interest you? List as many as you can think of that you might want to explore:
2. Where have you worked or volunteered? List details and periods of your different work or volunteer jobs.
3. Where have your parents or grandparents worked or volunteered? Interview any family members for information to find out occupations or volunteer organizations that might impact your scholarship search.
4. What are the various ethnic or cultural backgrounds in your family and heritage?
5. Name all the talents and skills you have. It can be anything you think of: music, art, sports, technology, hobbies.
6. Do you or anyone in your family live with a disability or health challenge? This could be a source of scholarship help as well.
7. Have any of your parents or grandparents served in the military? If so, which branches and when?
8. What kinds of civic or community organizations do you, your parents, or your grandparents belong to? Examples: unions, social clubs, non-profit organizations.
9. Where do you or your parents work? Many businesses and corporations have their own scholarship offerings. List any you discover.
10. Think of any unique or special things about yourself. Ask your family and friends to answer this about you, too, to give you some ideas! You never know what might apply to a scholarship opportunity.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH NOTES

Use this to evaluate at least three scholarships you find once you enter your personal information and do a scholarship search on the MEFA Pathway website.

[illegible]

GRADING RUBRIC FOR PRESENTATIONS

CATEGORY	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
	4	3	2	1
Content Accuracy	All content in the presentation is accurate. There are no factual errors.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that seems inaccurate.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly inaccurate	The content is confusing or contains more than one factual error.
Sequencing of Information	The information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Most information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Some information is logically sequenced.	There is no clear plan for the organization of information.
Effectiveness	The presentation includes all the material needed to give a good understanding of the topic.	The presentation lacks one or two key elements.	The presentation is missing more than two key elements.	The presentation lacks several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Use of Graphics	All graphics are attractive (size and colors) and support the topic of the presentation	A few graphics are not attractive, but all support the topic of the presentation.	All graphics are attractive, but a few do not support the topic of the presentation	Several graphics are unattractive AND detract from the content of the presentation.
Font Choice & Formatting	Font formats (size, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formats have been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
Conventions. The student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	The presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	The presentation has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	The presentation has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	The presentation has more than 2 grammatical and/ or spelling errors.