Purpose of a College Education Lesson Plan

Objective
You will expose students to the purpose and benefits of a college education as well as introduce them to the structure of a USU education. Have students explain the “why” of a college education and define/explain the parts of a university degree (general education, depth education, major courses).

Description
This lesson contains three parts:
1. Understanding the “Why” of a College Education Discussion: Lead the class through a discussion of the Becoming a Learner text, along with other purposes and benefits of a college degree. Pay special attention to non-vocational benefits and the idea that a “degree is not a destiny.”
2. Structure of a College Degree Video: Watch a brief video outlining and explaining the three parts of a USU degree. You can watch this as a class, or direct students to watch it individually in the assignment prompt in Canvas.
3. Purpose of a College Education Assignment: Direct students to Canvas for the assignment prompt. They will submit their papers on Canvas.

Instructional Time: 30-60 minutes
Required Assignment: YES
Points: 75

Relation to the Big Questions

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Lesson Plan
Discuss the purpose of a college education as a class using some of the resources below as prompts. Direct students to watch the Structure of a College Degree video and browse the other resources on their own prior to writing their paper. You can also watch the video together as a class and hold a discussion about it and the other resources.

Materials and Resources:
- Becoming a Learner by Dr. Matthew Sanders (given to each student at SOAR)
- Materials found at the instructor resource website including:
  - Structure of a College Degree Video—this video is also built into the assignment prompt if you don’t watch it as a class
  - AACU Employer Survey indicating which qualities employers prefer in college graduates
  - Various articles and surveys about being broadly educated citizens
• Degree Maps and Citizen Scholar objectives found in the USU General Catalog, [http://catalog.usu.edu](http://catalog.usu.edu)
• University Studies flowchart found in the *Aggie Blue Book*.

**Purpose of a College Education Assignment**

Direct students to Canvas for assignment information. Students will be asked to write a paper in response to this two-part prompt:

1. Why are you here? Explain your own understanding of the “why” or purpose of a college education. Include at least three reasons why you are enrolled in higher education classes.

2. A university degree is composed of general education, depth education, and major courses. Define each of these three parts. Why is a university education structured in this way? What are the benefits of all three, and how do they interrelate? USU’s Citizen Scholar objectives in the General Catalog ([http://catalog.usu.edu](http://catalog.usu.edu)) is a good resource for completion of this assignment.