# BENEFITS OF COMPLETING COLLEGE

## Lesson Plan #4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>Benefits of Completing College: <strong>Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong></td>
<td>(<em>why</em> of the lesson, where and how does it fit into the course/curriculum)</td>
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<td>Students will learn how achieving a postsecondary degree or certificate can help guide them in intellectual and reasoning abilities throughout their lives.</td>
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<td><strong>Learning Outcome(s):</strong></td>
<td>(what will students be able to do/know by the end of the lesson)</td>
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<td>Students will understand how obtaining a postsecondary education can help them use better reasoning to make smarter decisions as they are faced with important choices throughout their lives. This will show students that after a postsecondary education they will be much more prepared to make better choices for themselves, the people around them, and their future.</td>
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<td><strong>Opening Journal Prompt:</strong></td>
<td>(focus student attention)</td>
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<td>Answer the following question: Do you think that you make better decisions when you have a lot of information or just a little information? Why?</td>
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<td><strong>Input From You:</strong></td>
<td>(main content: ideas, information, concepts, principles, procedures and examples)</td>
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<td>The teacher will pass out the <em>Benefits of Completing College: Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities</em> handout to the students and together as a class they will read the information and discuss as needed.</td>
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<td><strong>Vocabulary Activation:</strong></td>
<td>(activate and diagnose prior knowledge)</td>
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<td>The teacher will pair the students and pass out the <em>Active Vocabulary Sheet</em> to students. The class will read the directions together and start the task. The vocabulary words include: Intellectual, Reasoning, Critical Thinking, Skeptical, Assumptions, Facts, and Opinions. Students will also be asked to create a sentence using each word to show understanding.</td>
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<td><strong>Input From You:</strong></td>
<td>(main content: ideas, information, concepts, principles, procedures and examples)</td>
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<td>The class will come back together and go over the vocabulary words while creating examples of each for an even firmer understanding.</td>
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<td>The teacher will pass out <em>The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz</em>. Students will pair up and run through the quiz.</td>
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<td><strong>Guided Practice:</strong></td>
<td>(application of knowledge: classroom activities for students, problem to solve, etc.)</td>
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<td>The students will create their own lists of what they would want to learn or understand from going to college and how they think they would be able to accomplish that learning.</td>
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<td>Once they have completed the quiz they will go through each statement as a class and discuss their answers.</td>
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**Closure:** (recap key concepts, helps students consolidate knowledge)

The students can create an “If… then...” collage for the classroom. For example, “If I attend a college workshop then I will be much better prepared to apply for college.”

**Check for Understanding:** (what questions will you ask and when to determine students understand)

Closing Journal Prompt: What were your initial assumptions about college/postsecondary degrees before this lesson and what are they now? Explain.

**Assessment:** (how does this lesson relate to assignments/homework/reading)

The teacher will hand out the list of celebrities who have obtained a postsecondary/college degree. This can be assigned as homework or in class assessment. The students will then select a celebrity and research his or her educational path and history. Students can find, for example, the college the celebrity attended, the subject of their degree, when they obtained their degree, what benefits they received from their education, and any other relevant information. The students can present and share this information in a variety of ways per the teacher’s request.

**Materials:**

- Benefit of Completing College: Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities handout.
- Active Vocabulary Worksheet
- The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz with Answer Key

**Supplementary Materials:**

- Utah Women & Education Initiative—Clips and Videos: [http://www.utahwomenandeducation.org/resources/videos/](http://www.utahwomenandeducation.org/resources/videos/)
MATERIALS
INTELLECTUAL AND REASONING ABILITIES

College graduates show a measurable improvement in factual and core knowledge, reasoning capabilities, and critical thinking, analysis, and lifelong learning skills.

**College graduates have greater factual and core knowledge.**
- College graduates have a considerable advantage in comparison to high school graduates when it comes to factual knowledge.
- Studies show that incoming freshmen increase their knowledge in core areas (e.g., mathematics, science, English, and social studies) 50 to 60% in two years and 60 to 75% by the time they are college seniors.

**Adults with college degrees are more likely to have strong reasoning capabilities.**
- A report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities stated that higher education is the “best and most powerful way to build students’ capacities to form reasoned judgments about complex issues.”
- Exposure to years of higher education improves an individual’s ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of arguments by applying reason and evaluating evidence.
- Studies have reported that the ability to comprehend and adequately present both sides of an argument or controversial issue is significantly improved after one attends college.

**Individuals with college degrees have enhanced critical thinking and analysis skills.**
- College seniors have a measurable improvement in critical thinking skills; compared to incoming freshmen, they are also able to address sophisticated problems and provide more complex solutions.
- College graduates are more skeptical about assumptions, more likely to accurately differentiate between facts and opinions, and better able to predict outcomes of their decision-making.
- Adults with higher education also tend to have stronger quantitative and analytic capabilities, an increased ability to integrate ideas and concepts, and overall higher level of proficiency in writing, speaking, teamwork, and a host of other competencies.

**College students develop enhanced lifelong learning skills.**
- Adults with higher levels of education are more likely to engage in activities and opportunities throughout their lives that enhance learning and add to their knowledge base.
- College graduates are more likely to love learning; they also tend to have developed the interest and skills to practice continual learning and self-improvement.

Intellectual and cognitive development is a powerful benefit of higher education. In order to succeed in today’s complex global work environment, most individuals need both a general education and the training and skills mastered in a formal educational experience.

www.utahwomenandeducation.org
Active Vocabulary Sheet

Directions: With your partner, find the definitions of each word and together create a sentence using the word. Each of you must fill out your own sheet.

Intellectual:

Dictionary definition

Create a sentence with the word *Intellectual*

Reasoning:

Dictionary definition

Create a sentence with the word *Reasoning*

Critical Thinking:

Dictionary definition

Create a sentence with the word *Critical Thinking*

Skeptical:

Dictionary definition

Create a sentence with the word *Skeptical*

Assumptions:

Dictionary definition

Create a sentence with the word *Assumptions*

Facts:

Dictionary definition

Create a sentence with the word *Facts*

Opinions:

Dictionary definition

Create a sentence with the word *Opinions*
The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz

Directions: Please answer the following questions as best you can on your own. Questions 1 and 2 are Multiple Choice and 3-7 are True or False statements.

1. Studies have reported the ability to comprehend and adequately see both sides of an issue
   a) significantly increases in and after college
   b) decreases after completing college
   c) did not change either before or after college
   d) none of the above

2. Adults with higher education have competencies which include
   a) writing and speaking
   b) teamwork
   c) both and b
   d) none of the above

3. True or False:
   If you continue with education post high school you will be more likely to understand the difference between fact and opinion.

4. True or False:
   Individuals are more likely to make smart decisions with little evidence or understanding.

5. True or False:
   A prediction will always turn out to be correct.

6. True or False:
   Adults with higher levels of education are less likely to engage in activities to add to their knowledge base.
The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz

Answer Key

1. Studies have reported the ability to comprehend and adequately see both sides of an issue
   a) significantly increase in and after college
   b) decrease after completing college
   c) did not change either before or after college
   d) none of the above

2. Adults with higher education have competencies which include
   a) writing and speaking
   b) teamwork
   c) both and b
   d) none of the above

3. True or False:
   If you continue with education post high school you will be more likely to understand the difference
   between fact and opinion. In fact, college graduates are more skeptical about assumptions and they are
   also able to address sophisticated problems and provide more complex solutions.

4. True or False:
   Individuals are less likely to make smart decisions with little evidence or understanding. College
   graduates have better critical thinking skills and are better able to predict outcomes of their decision
   making.

5. True or False:
   A prediction will sometimes turn out to be correct. College graduates are better at applying reason and
   evaluating evidence. Therefore they are better at making predictions or realizing that their prediction
   may not have been correct.

6. True or False:
   Adults with higher levels of education are more likely to engage in activities to add to their knowledge
   base. In fact, college graduates are more likely to engage in opportunities that enhance their learning
   long after completing their education.