BENEFITS OF COMPLETING COLLEGE:

Society

LESSON PLAN #6
Benefits of Completing College: Society

PURPOSE
Students will learn the community, civic, and societal benefits from obtaining a postsecondary education.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students will understand how obtaining a postsecondary education will help them become more aware of their community and civic roles and responsibilities.

OPENING JOURNAL PROMPT
Answer the following question: How important is it for you to be able to understand how to voice your opinion by way of voting? Please explain.

INPUT FROM YOU
The teacher will pass out the Benefit of Completing College: Society handout to the students and together as a class they will read the information and discuss as needed.

VOCABULARY ACTIVATION
The teacher will pair the students and pass out the Active Vocabulary Sheet to students. The class will read the directions together and start the task. The vocabulary words include: Civic Participation, Social Programs, Voting, Incarceration, Community Engagement, and Volunteerism. Students will also be asked to create a sentence using each word to show understanding.

INPUT FROM YOU
The class will come back together and go over the vocabulary words while creating examples of each for an even firmer understanding.

The teacher will hand out the Educated Society Quiz. Individually the students take the quiz.

Once everyone is done as a class the teacher will go through the quiz and the teacher can use the key to spark discussion of the correct answers.

GUIDED PRACTICE
With a partner have the students work through the Brainstorming Graphic Organizer worksheet. This worksheet asks them to think of other possible civic and community benefits that can come from acquiring more education.
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CLOSURE
The class can come back together and go over the Brainstorming Graphic Organizer worksheet. Each group can share what they wrote for each benefit and why they think this is a good example.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING
Closing Journal Prompt: What does this quote mean to you now that we have learned the civic, community, and societal benefits of a postsecondary education?
“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”

ASSESSMENT
The students can research opportunities for volunteer or service learning projects in their area and present them to the class. The class can vote on a service learning project they would like to work on and the teacher can coordinate as needed.

MATERIALS
Benefits of Completing College: Society Handout
Active Vocabulary Sheet
The Educated Society Quiz with Answer Key
Brainstorming Graphic Organizer Worksheet

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS
Education Pays:
http://trends.collegeboard.org/education-pays
The Value of Education Brief:
https://www.usu.edu/uwlp/files/briefs/1-value-of-higher-education.pdf
Utah Women & Leadership Project - Clips and Videos:
https://www.usu.edu/uwlp/resources/videos
Goals for the Common Good:
MATERIALS
Higher education promotes more prepared and conscientious civic participants and community volunteers.

Benefits of Completing College

SOCIETY

College graduates participate substantially more than their less educated peers in civic and community leadership and activities. Communities also benefit in numerous ways from an increasingly educated population.

College-educated individuals are substantially more likely to be engaged in their communities.
- College graduates are significantly more likely to volunteer in their communities than adults with only high school diplomas; the average number of volunteer hours increases with education level.
- College graduates are more likely to provide aid to people in their communities; this includes an increased likelihood of donating blood.

Adults with higher levels of education are more likely to vote than those with lower levels.
- Individuals with college degrees vote more often, and voting participation steadily increases with each year of education up through a bachelor’s degree.
- According to the report Goals for the Common Good, college “instills greater acceptance of free speech and democratic values, more understanding of the issues on which we vote, and increased confidence in our ability to select able leaders.”

Communities with more educated residents have lower crime and incarceration rates.
- Studies show a strong link between more educated communities and lower rates of violent crime. A one-year increase in the average level of schooling in a community is associated with almost a 30% decrease in the murder and assault rates.
- One study found that nearly 75% of Utah inmates had not completed high school at the time of incarceration and fewer than 3% had completed college.

Society’s economy benefits from more educated residents.
- The increased earnings associated with more educated workers generate higher tax revenue at the local, state, and federal levels; governments also spend less on public assistance and social support programs.
- According to an American Human Development Project report, “Education is the single most important factor in the determination of a person’s poverty status: almost 24 percent of the adult population without a high school diploma is poor compared with only 3.6 percent of college graduates.

Higher education promotes more prepared and conscientious civic participants and community volunteers. Education provides the avenue out of poverty and benefits society at large.

www.utwomen.org
Active Vocabulary Worksheet

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.

Civic Participation:
Dictionary definition of Civic ____________________________________________
and of Participation _________________________________________________
Create a sentence with the words Civic Participation ________________________

Social Programs:
Dictionary definition of Social __________________________________________
and of Programs _____________________________________________________
Create a sentence with the words Social Programs __________________________

Voting:
Dictionary definition ___________________________________________________
Create a sentence with the word Voting ________________________________

Community Engagement:
Dictionary definition of Community _____________________________________
and of Engagement ___________________________________________________
Create a sentence with the words Community Engagement _______________

Volunteerism:
Dictionary definition ___________________________________________________
Create a sentence with the word Volunteerism ____________________________

Incarceration:
Dictionary definition ___________________________________________________
Create a sentence with the word Incarceration ____________________________

Conscientious:
Dictionary definition ___________________________________________________
Create a sentence with the word Conscientious ___________________________
Brainstorming Graphic Organizer

Directions: With a partner fill out this graphic organizer. On the left you will see the first two blocks are outlined for you. Now add to the right as you think of examples of how obtaining a college or postsecondary education can help you be a more engaged and thoughtful social citizen. You need to fill in two examples for each benefit.

College/Post Secondary Education

Civic Participation

Community Engagement

1. Attending a city council meeting

1. Raising money for a local charity

1. Raising money for a local charity
The Educated Society Quiz

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

1. Society benefits from higher educated citizens through
   a) higher tax revenue
   b) spending less on public assistance
   c) more community volunteers
   d) all of the above

2. Communities with more educated residents have
   a) higher crime rates
   b) lower crime rates and incarceration rates
   c) increased murder and assault rates
   d) none of the above

3. True or False:
   College graduates are less likely to vote than those with a high school education.

4. True or False:
   Someone with a postsecondary education will be less likely to get involved in their community.

5. True or False:
   High school students are more likely to volunteer than college students.

6. True or False:
   College graduates are more likely to donate blood.

7. True or False:
   A one year increase in the level of schooling in a community is shown associated with almost a 30% decrease in crime rates.
1. Society benefits from higher educated citizens through
   a) higher tax revenue
   b) spending less on public assistance
   c) more community volunteers
   d) all of the above

2. Communities with more educated residents have
   a) higher crime rates
   b) lower crime rates and incarceration rates
   c) increased murder and assault rates
   d) none of the above

3. True or False:
   College graduates are more likely to vote than those with a high school education.
   College graduates are more likely to vote by a 2:1 ratio. Attaining education beyond high school will help you learn more about your local and national leaders. In turn, this will help shape your support for issues and become involved in the voting process.

4. True or False:
   Someone with a postsecondary education will be more likely to get involved in their community.
   Education beyond high school provides opportunities to learn how organizations in the community work and how you can get involved. Volunteering gives people a rewarding feeling and can also help people discover their own passions and strengths.

5. True or False:
   High school students are less likely to volunteer than college students.
   Research shows that people with higher education participate in more volunteering experiences. So sticking with education increases your opportunities to volunteer which in turn benefits you and your community in many ways.

6. True or False:
   College graduates are more likely to donate blood.
   Like volunteering, donating blood or other resources is an example of giving back to your community which helps everyone, especially with such crucial issues such as blood supply.

7. True or False:
   A one year increase in the level of schooling in a community is shown associated with almost a 30% decrease in crime rates.
   One study found that nearly 75% of state inmates had not completed high school at the time of incarceration and fewer than 3% had completed college.