

Scholarships & Current Events

11th and 12th Grade

November 2008

Packing List:

- The usual: folders, pencils, outline, change of address cards, etc.
- **Current Events Quiz** (one per student)
- **Current Events Photos** (one set per workshop)
- **Critical Thinking Discussion Activity**
- **Ten Action Steps** handout (one per student)
- **Scholarship Search Profile** (one per student)
- One **Assessment** per student

Purpose:

The purpose of this workshop is to encourage students to begin or continue searching and applying for scholarships. Through a current events quiz and discussion activity, students will learn how staying informed and thinking critically can help them when writing essays for college scholarships. Students will fill out a Scholarship Search Profile and learn about scholarships that would be appropriate matches for their unique talents and interests.

Learning Outcomes & Assessment:

By the conclusion of this workshop, students will be able to identify one scholarship for which they are eligible and name two action steps they can take in their scholarship search.

Housekeeping: 5 minutes

Pass out returned mail and complete change of address forms if necessary.

[Do you know about what's going on outside?] Current Events Quiz: 5 minutes

Pass out the **Current Events Quiz**. Flash photos of current events and give students time to identify the event on their worksheet (without talking to their friends) before moving on. After the quiz, review the answers and ask students if and how they stay informed about current events (internet, newspaper, TV, radio, talking to parents and friends, etc.). Why would it be important to know about what's happening in the world? How could knowing about current events help students with scholarship applications? *(Note: Quiz answers are printed on back of current events photos.)*

[If you know about it, what do you think about it?] Critical Thinking Discussion Activity: 10-15 minutes

Divide the class into teams of 4 or 5. Give each team a **Critical Thinking Discussion** envelope. Each student chooses one discussion question and spends the first 2-3 minutes silently thinking about their question. After the 2-3 minutes is up, each student should be prepared to share (in their group) their question, answer, and reasons for answering the way they did. Students should take turns sharing, spending no more than 1 or 2 minutes on each individual question. Instruct students that there are no right or wrong answers to each question, but they must do three things on their turn:

1. Read the question aloud
2. State their quick answer/response to the question
3. Explain: Support/backup their answer

After each person has had the chance to share, allow them the remaining time to return to any questions they would like to discuss further with their group.

Class Discussion: Allow students to discuss their thoughts about the questions.

- What did you think of the questions?
- Were they hard or easy?
- Which questions required a lot of thought?
- Did you struggle to respond to the questions?
- Were you able to support or back up your opinion?

Inform students that *all* of these questions were found on actual scholarship applications. They might encounter these questions later in their high school careers as they prepare for college.

Your Scholarship Search Profile: 10-15 minutes

Pass out a **Scholarship Search Profile** to each student. Explain that the profile will help students organize their personal information, so they'll be ready to apply for scholarships. Point out and discuss sections of the profile as time allows. Give students a few minutes to begin filling out the profile. Encourage students to fill out the form thoroughly, drawing from their activities and accomplishments from the past three/four years. The more precise the profile, the better equipped students will be to find scholarships for which they are uniquely qualified.

10 Actions Steps & Five Essay Tips Handout: 5-10 minutes

Now that students have a good start on their Scholarship Profile, it's time to start searching. Emphasize that searching for scholarships takes time and effort, but it's worth it! Review the 10 Action Steps handout.

- Ask students to identify three of the steps on which they can act.
- Which of the steps have they already taken?
- What successes or challenges have they encountered in their scholarship search?

Direct students to the Essay Tips side of the handout. Review if time allows; otherwise students can read the info at home. Tell students our workshop next month will be Financial Aid Part II – specifically focusing on the FAFSA and state Financial Aid.

The Scholarship List Discussion: 5-10 minutes

Review and discuss scholarships on the back of the Scholarship Search Profile. Have students read through the descriptions of each scholarship and, based on their profile, check whether or not the scholarship applies to them.

- For which scholarships were they eligible?
- Which scholarships are they interested in knowing more about?

Note: Encourage seniors to write down their Talent Search counselor's name and contact information on the handout. Remind students we're here to help with their scholarship search (with research, editing essays, etc.) and not to forget to list Talent Search on their scholarship applications or profiles (might be listed as *Educational* Talent Search on web profiles).

Three Big Things:

Point out this month's "3 Things Every College Student Needs to Know" on the back of the Current Events Quiz.

Assessment: Ask three students to fill out the assessment.