

PROS ACTIVITIES:

CONSIDERING SKILLED TRADES

PEER REVIEW

1. Get into groups of four. On a piece of paper, write down a skilled trade that you think would fit each of the three members of your group based on their personalities and what you know about them.
2. Take turns sharing which jobs you imagined for each other, and explain why you thought they'd like these paths.
3. Now rank the paths that your classmates imagined for you.

MAP YOUR FUTURE

1. Find the map on page 96 that lists the industries prominent in different regions in Arkansas.
2. Choose three skilled trade professions that sound interesting to you. Now search the map for where those industries are found.
3. Find the nearest training program for that trade using the map on page 110. Write down where you'll need to live, the college or trade school you'd attend and a company that might hire you for your first job.
4. Compare the three different lives and rank them based on what most appeals to you.



BELL RINGER ACTIVITIES



▶ PLANNING FOR THE COST OF COLLEGE

1. Imagine you have no money for college. There's no savings account or parental help. You're on your own. Now choose a higher education path with this in mind, and think about how you'll pay for it. You can apply for financial aid, take out student loans and/or work part-time jobs to help cover expenses. You can go for four years, two years or 18 months. You might pick the military or skilled trades training. Explain your answer in four to six sentences.
2. Now imagine you have limitless money for college. There's nothing holding you back—where do you go and what do you study? Do you go to graduate school? What's your dream job after graduate? Explain your answer in four to six sentences.
3. Look at both versions, and now find a compromise somewhere in the middle. What path fulfills all your dreams but with a practical way of paying? Explain your answer in four to six sentences.

▶ COST OF LIVING

1. How much money do you need to make annually to pay for your desired lifestyle?
2. Turn to page 77. Review the sample budget, then create your own at www.workforce.arkansas.gov/real-life (based on the lifestyle and degree you want) to see if you will actually be able to afford what you're picturing!
3. List five jobs that could pay for this lifestyle. Ideally, use a mix of skilled trades and jobs that require more higher education.
4. Rank them based on what you'd most like to do.

▶ THINKING ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE

1. Read pages 50-51 and review the differences in the branches of the military.
2. Imagine a nationwide draft has been issued. Which branch would you join, and what role/job would you want to have within that branch? How would you take advantage of the educational benefits after you complete your service?

▶ CAREER QUIZ FUN

3. Turn to page 171. Take two of the career/personality quizzes featured and use the world-of-work graph. What career/degree paths were recommended for you?
4. Make a list of the top three major/job recommendations.
5. Write a paragraph about why you think the quiz recommended these for you and why you would be interested in them (or not).

▶ SCHOLARSHIP HEADSTART

1. Go to the Financial Aid section (pages 64-73) for an overview on how to get money for college.
2. Make a list of all the scholarships that you might have a chance of receiving.
3. Several of the scholarships are representative of other available scholarships. List three things you might research online to find more eligible scholarships. When you finish, you should have a good start for when you need to begin applying!

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

USING *NEXT* IN YOUR CLASSROOMS!



SHARE A SLIDE PRESENTATION.

"WHAT DOES YOUR FUTURE LOOK LIKE?"

Teachers: Create a Google Slide presentation for your students called "What does your future look like?" Create one blank slide for each student. Then, share the presentation with the students in your class. Ask each student to create their own slide to present to the class toward the end of the class period. Have them pick the following using *Arkansas Next's* "What's Next?" section, college list and degree directory:

1. Type higher education they want to get after high school
2. Major/degree they want to get
3. Job they want to use that degree to get
4. Type of lifestyle they hope to lead after achieving Nos. 1, 2 and 3

After 15 to 20 minutes, give each student a chance to do a brief presentation of their slide - to explain what they want to accomplish in the future and why. (Project could be expanded into full slideshows by each student over the course of two days of class.)

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

USING *NEXT* IN YOUR CLASSROOMS!



CREATE A PADLET BOARD.

Padlet is a digital bulletin board. Use it to tack digital notes to it with “push pins.” Those notes can have links, files, images and other multimedia attached to them. Kick off class by creating a collaborative “What do you know about ...?” Padlet. Pose one of the following (or all) questions to your students and ask them to use *Arkansas Next* and *Next PROS* to gather facts and develop opinions.

- “How do you get into college?”
- “What does the ‘college experience’ mean to you?”
- “What do you think about military service?”
- “What financial aid/scholarship opportunities stick out to you?”
- “What do you know about NCAA athletes and going pro?”
- “Why are skilled trades a good option for some students?”


Encourage students to add anything they want – personal experiences, GIFs, Memes, photos or videos. As a class, talk through some of the things that the students posted.



SCAVENGER HUNT

This activity will help your students discover and digest more of the important information within Arkansas Next. Have your students complete this hunt individually or in small groups, and perhaps with a time limit for added fun.

1. Which NFL football teams did D.J. Williams play for?
2. Name three of the companies that have the most jobs in Arkansas.
3. Find the "What's Next?" section and list five higher education paths for life after high school.
4. Name two pros to serving in the military.
5. What is the average cost to attend graduate school per year?
6. A two-year college is an option for you if... ?
7. What are two things the "College Countdown" suggests you do during your freshman year of high school?
8. What online application applies you for over 20 scholarships at once?
9. What are some questions you should ask when you're touring college campuses?
10. In what year does the "College Countdown" tell you to start applying for scholarships?
11. What higher education paths are right for someone if they...
 - A • Want to save a lot of money?
 - B • Need to live at home?
 - C • Are an adventure seeker?
 - D • Want the traditional college experience?
12. Which dorm looks most like one you want to live in?
13. How many Arkansas universities offer ROTC programs, and which schools are they?

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14. List four of the 15 skilled trades featured in *NEXT Pros*, and name the one trade career you'd most be interested in.
 15. According to the "Jobs" section...
 - A • What is the top paying job in Arkansas?
 - B • Name three in-demand fields/professions.
 16. What are some ways activism can benefit you in college?
 17. What are two scholarships everyone can apply for?
 18. What is the projected job growth outlook for plumbers in the U.S. by 2026.
 19. What are three cool things made in Arkansas?
 20. Which "Dirty Jobs" TV star offers his very own scholarship for students pursuing a skilled trade?
 21. What percentage of high school basketball players (male and female) go on to receive an NCAA scholarship to play collegiately?
 22. What is the average student loan debt in Arkansas?
 23. What college did D.J. Williams attend?
 24. Read "What They Pay." List three careers that you have an interest in and the average salary for each.
 25. What do the highest earners (top 10 percent) make in the Industrial Maintenance trade?
 26. Name one "easy" scholarship to get and one "hard" scholarship to get; write down which of these two you'd pursue and why.
 27. Fill out the survey in the back of this magazine and turn it in with this assignment to your teacher or guidance counselor.



SCAVENGER HUNT: ANSWER KEY

1. Green Bay Packers, Jacksonville Jaguars, New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers (page 32).
2. Answers will vary from page 76.
3. Four-year colleges, two-year colleges, transfer degree, graduate degree and military service (pages 40-53).
4. Answers will vary from page 52.
5. \$18,720 (page 46).
6. Answers will vary from page 44.
7. Answers will vary from page 22.
8. YOUniversal scholarship application (page 71-72).
9. Answers will vary from page 56.
10. Junior year (page 23).
11. A–Transfer degree, page 44; B–Two-year college, page 42; C–Military service, page 53; D–Four-year college, page 40.
12. Answers will vary from page 58-59.
13. Four: Arkansas State University, University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (pages 50-51).
14. Answers will vary from page 114-140.
15. A–Internists (page 78); B–Answers will vary from pages 80-84.
16. Answers will vary from page 61-63.
17. Answers will vary from page 72.
18. More than 16% (page 138).
19. Answers will vary from page 98-101.
20. Mike Rowe (page 107).
21. 3.4%–male and 3.8%–female (page 32).
22. \$26, 859 (page 65).
23. University of Arkansas (page 30).
24. Answers will vary from page 78.
25. \$124,129 (page 132).
26. Answers will vary from page 73.
27. Collect completed surveys from students.