

# IN-CLASS ACTIVITY OR HOMEWORK

## 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 “The Next Level” section, the college list and the degree directory:

1. Type of higher education they want to pursue after high school
2. Major/degree they want to pursue
3. Job they want to get using that degree

**BONUS:** Complete the Lifestyle Calculator Game under “Quick Assignments” and tie students’ results into their Slide Presentation

Give time parameters for completing this task (in class or as homework). When they’re done, give each student a chance to briefly present their slide—explaining what they want to accomplish in the future and why.

*Note: Project could be expanded into full slideshows by each student over the course two to three days of class.*



## IN-CLASS ACTIVITY OR HOMEWORK

### WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A... CREATING A DREAM JOB MOOD BOARD

Utilizing the free design tools on [canva.com](https://canva.com) or the Canva app, ask students to create a dream job “mood board.” Inspired by our cover story about chasing your childhood dreams (spotlighting the jobs of teachers, veterinarians, police officers, chefs, artists, doctors and firefighters), ask each student to create a one-page mood board with an image of their dream job.



Encourage students to be creative and have fun with this project. Have them include graphics representing what they think this career looks like at work and the lifestyle that comes with it. They can include text highlighting salary, college type, degrees and the like, or take an artistic/abstract approach.

Have each student present and explain their mood board to the class; display the pages on a large screen or print them out for all to appreciate.

# IN-CLASS ACTIVITY OR HOMEWORK

## E-GRATITUDE

Ask each student to draft an email to their favorite teacher, a teacher that means the most to them, a teacher who inspired them or any educator who has made a difference in their lives.



Ask students to volunteer to read their emails out loud to the class—their words demonstrating just how impactful and meaningful the work of a teacher is.

When it's time to move on from sharing, ask students if they would consider a career in teaching.

How did they feel about the career before the email exercise and how do they feel after it?

Finally, encourage each student to send their email, if able, to show their appreciation. Offer to help students send them if need be.

# IN-CLASS ACTIVITY OR HOMEWORK

## SCAVENGER HUNT: ANSWER KEY

1. 3,000 (page 25)
2. Teachers (page 25)
3. \$48,090 (page 25)
4. Answers will vary from page 26.
5. Answers will vary from the list on page 28.
6. 2,760 (page 30)
7. 8% (page 30)
8. Answers will vary from the list on page 33.
9. Lyon College in Little Rock (page 34)
10. True (page 35)
11. True (page 35)
12. Answers will vary from page 37.
13. 16 years (page 39)
14. Three; bonus point for mentioning the soon-to-be Alice L. Walton School of Medicine (page 39)
15. Payment history, amounts owed, length of credit history, new credit, and credit mix (page 69)
16. Answers may quote or paraphrase the definition found on page 63.
17. Answers will come from pages 58 and 59.
18. Answers will vary from page 73.

19. Answers will vary from pages 76-77.

20. Answers will vary from page 87.

21. Agriculture (page 86)

22. Bachelor's (four-year), associate (two-year), transfer and graduate degrees; bonus for listing certificates, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training from *Arkansas NEXT: PROS*.

23. Answers will vary from page 60.

24. Answers will vary from page 66.

25. Collect completed surveys from students.

### *The Ultimate Higher Ed* SCAVENGER HUNT

Complete this hunt individually or in small groups.  
Your teacher may assign a time limit for added fun.

1. How many students can one teacher impact over the course of their career in education?
2. Outside of parents, who has the greatest impact on our lives while growing up?
3. What is the median annual salary for elementary school teachers in Arkansas?
4. Name two ways you can earn a degree or training to become a teacher in Arkansas for free.
5. List two degrees you can get in Arkansas if you're interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.
6. What is the estimated number of firefighters, forest fire preventionists and firefighter supervisors in Arkansas?
7. What percentage of firefighters in the U.S. are women?
8. Name one cool culinary degree offered in Arkansas.
9. Who is opening the first veterinary school in Arkansas, and where will it be located?
10. True or false? Arkansas is the state with the least veterinarians in the U.S.
11. True or false? Arkansas is the highest paying state for veterinarians in the U.S.
12. What are two of the more employable art degrees?
13. How many years does it take to become a surgeon?
14. How many medical schools are located in Arkansas?
15. Your credit score is determined through what five factors?
16. What does "early decision" mean as it relates to the college admissions process?
17. List one thing you should do each of the following school years—eighth, ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th grades—as you prepare for graduation and college.
18. Name one perk and one pitfall of student loans.
19. What are three ways you can stretch your scholarships (help them cover more of your tuition and college expenses)?
20. Which "Hot 45" occupation are you most interested in?
21. Fill in the blank: \_\_\_\_\_ is Arkansas' largest industry.
22. Find "The Next Level" section and list the four main higher education paths featured. Bonus: Find a fifth option somewhere in the magazine.
23. What is a "super score"?
24. What's one item you didn't know you'd need to pack for your dorm room?
25. Fill out the survey card in the back of this magazine and turn it in with this assignment to your teacher or guidance counselor.

# QUICK ASSIGNMENTS WITH CLASS DISCUSSION

## PLAY THE GAME LIFESTYLE CALCULATOR

Take the “lifestyle calculator” quiz on page 80.

Using the results on page 81, find the salary and careers that match your total points.

Write down your results.

Next, choose one or more occupations you might consider in order to earn this salary.

In one to two paragraphs, share what you think about your results. Questions to consider:

- Did the cost of your dream lifestyle surprise you?
- Why did you pick that occupation?
- What lifestyle do you picture for yourself 10 years from now?
- Will that occupation get you to that 10-year plan?
- Now that you see what it takes to pay for your dream lifestyle, are you willing to sacrifice any luxuries? Or are you motivated to work even harder to make sure you earn enough?

**LIFESTYLE CALCULATOR**  
IN THE GAME OF LIFE, THERE ARE A LOT OF EXPENSES...

**\$ HOW MUCH MONEY WILL YOU NEED TO MAKE? \$**

**C** **%** **÷** **×** **−** **+** **=**

**HOUSING**  
Choose one:  
A. Living at home (0)  
B. One bedroom apartment (3)  
C. Two bedroom apartment (4)  
D. House (5)

**UTILITIES**  
Choose one (monthly):  
A. Cell phone (2)  
B. Internet (2)  
C. Electricity (3)  
D. Water and gas (3)

**FOOD**  
Choose one:  
A. Eat at home (2)  
B. Home and fast food (3)  
C. Home and fine dining (4)  
D. Monthly restaurant (5)

**TRANSPORTATION**  
Choose one:  
A. Biking (0)  
B. Public transportation (1)  
C. Used car (2)  
D. Average car (3)  
E. Luxury car (5)

**HEALTH CARE**  
Choose one:  
A. Basic insurance (1)  
B. Premium insurance (2)

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Choose one (monthly):  
A. Streaming services (1)  
B. Go out at least once a week (2)  
C. Attend concerts, weekend trips, and other activities (3)  
D. Longer vacations and adventures that will require hotel and travel expenses (airplane tickets) (5)

**BEAUTY/GROOMING**  
Choose one (monthly):  
A. Basics (shampoo, face wash, shower items, etc.) (1)  
B. Spa membership (2)  
C. Hair and skin services (2)  
D. Extra (makeup, perfume, cologne, etc.) (3)  
E. Luxuries (designer beauty) (4)

**CLOTHING**  
Choose one (monthly):  
A. Less than \$20 per month (1)  
B. \$20 to \$50 per month (2)  
C. \$50 to \$100 per month (3)  
D. \$100+ per month (4)

**EXTRAS**  
Choose one (monthly):  
A. Miscellaneous small purchases like coffee, gifts, etc. (1)  
B. Pet (2)  
C. Pet care (2)  
D. Vacation spending, including hotel and travel expenses (3)  
E. College (4)  
F. Home furnishings (5)

**SAVINGS PER PAYCHECK**  
Choose one:  
A. 2% (1)  
B. 5% (2)  
C. 7.5% (3)  
D. 10% - highly recommended! (5)

**STUDENT LOAN**  
Choose one (monthly):  
A. Certificate program (1)  
B. Associate's degree (2)  
C. Bachelor's degree (3)  
D. Master's degree (4)  
E. Medical school (5)  
F. Medical school (6)  
G. School law school, etc. (7)

**RESULTS YOUR LIFESTYLE TOTAL**

You'll need to make the following salary range out of college to live the life you're picturing for yourself. Use this information to guide you as you consider the cost of college and majors to pursue and ensure you are able to afford your goals.

**29 POINTS OR FEWER**  
\$23,000 to \$43,000/year  
Careers that could work:  
• Animal trainer  
• Customer service representative  
• Nursing assistant  
• Coach/hood

**40-49 POINTS**  
\$43,000 to \$63,000/year  
Careers that could work:  
• High school teacher  
• Electrician  
• Dietician/nutritionist  
• Social media manager

**50-59 POINTS**  
\$63,000 to \$73,000/year  
Careers that could work:  
• Accountant  
• Occupational therapist  
• Registered nurse  
• Detective/investigator

**60-69 POINTS**  
\$73,000 to \$83,000/year  
Careers that could work:  
• Software developer  
• Civil engineer  
• Construction manager  
• Speech language pathologist

**70-79 POINTS**  
\$83,000 to \$93,000/year  
Careers that could work:  
• Lawyer/attorney  
• Database administrator  
• Physical therapist  
• IT manager

**80-89 POINTS**  
\$93,000 to \$103,000/year  
Careers that could work:  
• Commercial pilot  
• Marketing executive  
• Nurse practitioner  
• Banker

**90 POINTS OR MORE**  
More than \$103,000/year  
Careers that could work:  
• Physician assistant or nurse practitioner  
• Data scientist  
• Financial manager  
• Chief executive officer (CEO)  
• Medical doctor (all specialties)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Salary data gathered from careeronestop.org

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Discuss the results as a class.

# QUICK ASSIGNMENTS WITH CLASS DISCUSSION

## BELL RINGER FUN

**Students:** Play the “board game” on page 68.

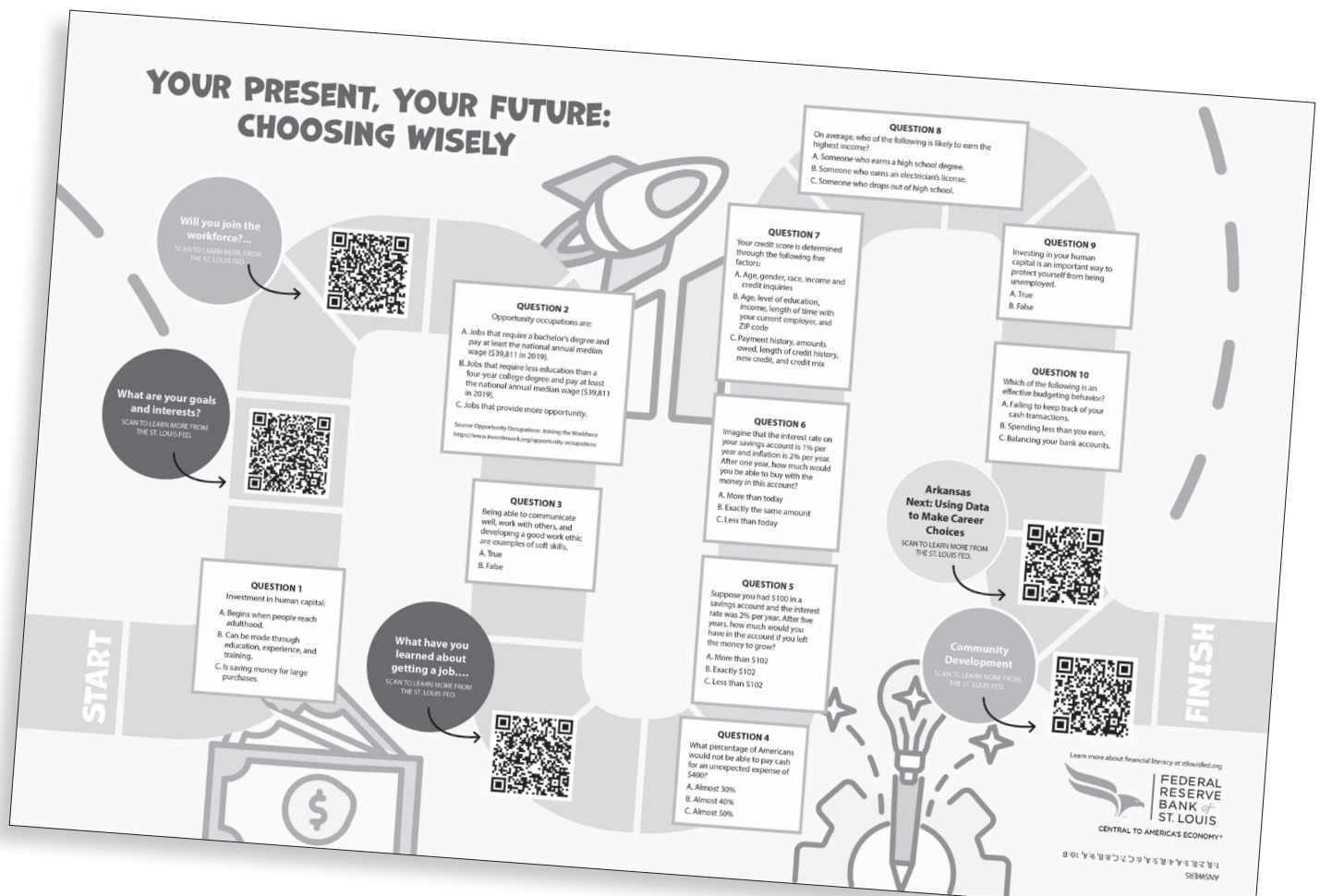
How did you do? What did you learn?

Discuss quietly in small groups for about five minutes.

Next, if phones are allowed in your class, scan one of the QR codes on the game board.

Write down three things you found interesting from the game and from the information you discovered after scanning the QR code.

**Teachers:** Ask for volunteers to share their three things or ask students to turn in their notes for review.





# QUICK ASSIGNMENTS WITH CLASS DISCUSSION

## HIGH SCHOOL TO-DO LIST

Send your students to “The Ultimate High School To-do List” on pages 58-59.

Ask them to review the checklist for each grade level. No matter if they’re in eighth grade or a senior, ask students to find **one thing they started or completed** and **one thing they have not done** (but need to do this year).

Discuss answers informally as a class; use this time to suggest action items, and motivate them to stay on track for graduation (no matter how far off it seems!).

**Extra credit:** Ask students if they’ve met with their guidance counselor recently and suggest that those who haven’t schedule a visit soon.

**The Ultimate HIGH SCHOOL To-do List**

Let the countdown to college begin—use this comprehensive checklist from eighth grade to high school graduation.

**8th Grade** *In a nutshell: Map out your high school education plan.*

- ☐ **BEGIN YOUR STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN.** Work with your school's advisor to create a personalized education plan that will help prepare you for high school, college, career and community engagement. This can help you plan for the future by enrolling in classes that are suited to your specific career goals.
- ☐ **TAKE HARDER CLASSES.** Find classes that roll over for high school credit like foreign languages.
- ☐ **JOIN CLUBS, AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND SIGN UP FOR EXTRACURRICULARS AND/OR SPORTS.** This is a good way to discover your strengths and passions, as well as start earning experience for the resume you'll need in your junior and senior years of high school.
- ☐ **GET A JUMP ON SCHOLARSHIPS.** Seems too far off, right? Wrong. There are scholarships out there for getting middle schoolers and high schoolers to start building their college fund.

**9th Grade & 10th Grade** *In a nutshell: It's all about GRADES; your only job right now is to be a great student.*

- ☐ **MEET WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR ONCE PER SEMESTER.** Share your goals for during and life after high school. Create and check in on your academic plan.
- ☐ **GET GOOD GRADES.** Believe it or not, your freshman year academic performance can set up your GPA for the rest of your high school career.
- ☐ **SIGN UP FOR EXTRACURRICULARS.** (student clubs and organizations and sports). Extracurriculars are increasingly important in college essays and resume.
- ☐ **VOLUNTEER** (or figure out where you'll want to volunteer later in high school). Give back through local nonprofits and charities; you'll want to be well-rounded as a student when applying for scholarships and as a citizen of the world.
- ☐ **MAKE NOTE OF ANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR ACHIEVEMENTS** in your academics or extracurriculars (in and out of school). Always be looking ahead to your college resume. Colleges and universities want to know that you're well-rounded.
- ☐ **START TAKING PRACTICE ACT TESTS.** And if a PSAT is offered during your sophomore year, take it.
- ☐ **THINK ABOUT COLLEGES AND MAJORS.** Get the wheels turning on what you might want to do and be able to afford. Attend the college fair at your high school.

**11th Grade** *In a nutshell: Take the ACT or SAT and tour colleges.*

- ☐ **MEET WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.** Check on your graduation requirements. Work together on your senior schedule.
- ☐ **ENROLL IN AP AND/OR DUAL-CREDIT COURSES THAT TRANSFER TO COLLEGE** (this cuts down on the cost of your future tuition).
- ☐ **TAKE THE PSAT DURING THE FALL SEMESTER.** In hopes of qualifying to be a National Merit Scholar or Finalist. This distinction comes with a lot of scholarship money.
- ☐ **PREPARE FOR YOUR ACT AND/OR SAT.** Take practice tests or start taking the tests early to start building your score. Find out what scores you need to make to get into your first-choice college.
- ☐ **TAKE THE ACT AND/OR SAT.**
- ☐ **ATTEND YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE FAIR.**
- ☐ **TOUR COLLEGES. USE EVERY COLLEGE VISIT DAY YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS YOU.**
- ☐ **DRAFT YOUR RESUME TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR'S COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.**
- ☐ **DRAFT YOUR RESUME TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR'S COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.** Take practice tests or start taking the tests early to start building your score. Find out what scores you need to make to get into your first-choice college.

**12th Grade** *In a nutshell: Apply to colleges.*

**FIRST SEMESTER**

- ☐ **MEET WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.** Check in on your graduation requirements. Do any still need to be met?
- ☐ **ONE LAST CHANCE TO TAKE OR RETAKE THE ACT OR SAT.** Double check the score needed at your school of choice, study hard, and go get it!
- ☐ **PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION(S).** Organize all the necessary documents. It's time for letters of recommendation, ordering transcripts from your counselors and polishing your resume. Don't wait to ask for letters! You're probably not the only one asking. Make sure your best scores get sent to your prospective schools.
- ☐ **APPLY, APPLY, APPLY! APPLY TO YOUR DREAM SCHOOLS AND AT LEAST ONE SAFETY SCHOOL.**
- ☐ **FILL OUT THE FAFSA.** States, schools, and the federal government have different FAFSA deadlines. Submit your FAFSA form early. Some aid is limited, so we recommend applying as soon as possible after applications open on October 1.
- ☐ **RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS** and start applying for as many as possible.

**SECOND SEMESTER** *In a nutshell: Choose a school and get scholarships.*

- ☐ **NOTIFY THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY OF YOUR DECISION.** Don't feel pressured to declare a major right now. If you aren't sure. You have time, but it's important to start thinking about it.
- ☐ **APPLY FOR HOUSING, IF NEEDED, AS SOON AS YOU ARE ACCEPTED. THE EARLIER YOU APPLY, THE BETTER OPTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.**
- ☐ **GO AFTER SCHOLARSHIPS.** If you haven't already applied for scholarships, now is the time to hit panic mode and submit applications.
- ☐ **DON'T LET "SENIORITY" TAKE AWAY YOUR MOTIVATION.** End on a high note, stay involved and stay on top of your grades.
- ☐ **REQUEST YOUR FINAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT.**
- ☐ **SIGN UP FOR NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION** at your college.
- ☐ **MAKE LASTING MEMORIES** with your classmates.
- ☐ **WRITE A THANK YOU LETTER TO YOUR FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER(S).**

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## QUICK ASSIGNMENTS WITH CLASS DISCUSSION

# EXPLORE ARKANSAS NEXT: PROS

### SECRET CALLING

Ask students to take the quiz on pages 118-119.

After they calculate their results, ask them to answer the following questions:

1. What jobs were you matched with?
2. Why do you think you were matched with them? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. Will you consider one of the jobs recommended as you plan for life after high school? Explain your answer.

### TRADITIONAL EDUCATION VS. FAST-TRACK INTO THE WORKFORCE

Assign students time to flip through *Arkansas NEXT* and *NEXT: PROS*. Ask them to hone in on the different higher education options presented in the magazines.

When time is up, have students **create two pros and cons lists**—one for the traditional route (four-year college or more) and another for the non-traditional route (two-year degrees, technical training, and certifications).

Have students personalize the pros and cons as much as possible, then, ask for volunteers to share their lists with the class. Discuss as a group.

