

Life After High School: What is REALLY important to know?

WebQuest Description: This WebQuest deals with teaching students how to prepare for things in life that all adults must learn about and use. No, this has nothing to do with college. This Quest is about learning how to file your taxes, pay your bills, budget money, and more.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: Life Skills / Careers

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Introduction

High School is incredibly useful. You learn about math, science, English, and all that good jazz. But what things do you REALLY need to know for after you leave home? I personally never even knew what a mortgage was until last year, and I'm almost 21! Learning how to file taxes, budgeting your money, taking out loans, and other life preparation skills are very important to know about BEFORE you leave home. Leaving without this knowledge makes you a deer in the headlights and can leave you extremely stressed out at times. This will be a guide to help you learn about some information that not only college students need, but anybody living on their own.

Tasks

For this Quest, you will be diving into adult expenses and situations to get a first-hand look at how money by the average adult is spent. You think \$100 is a lot now? Things will change soon. This will get you more well prepared for that day. Please take a look at these links and try to pay attention! These are things that actually matter. Remember, you aren't in calculus class right now. These videos will prepare you for the rest of the quest. How to become an adult How to do taxes How to budget your money By the end of the Quest, you should be able to answer these questions: What can I do before High School ends to be a more prepared adult? Which of the subjects discussed looks the most difficult? The easiest? How much of this knowledge did you know prior to this MapQuest? What did you learn?

Process

First off, each group of four students will decide on a role for each group member. The four different roles are The Accountant, The Penny Pincher, The Beggar, and The Average Joe. It is imperative for each person to dig into their roles and to learn as much as they can. Don't cheat yourself or your partners! The Accountant- You are our taxes expert! The goal for you is to find out as much as you can about taxes and to take notes. Finding out the basics, how filing works, how you can save the most, loopholes, etc. are your job to figure out. Taxes can be tricky, so make sure to read carefully. Helpful Links: Taxes 101 Important tax lingo Go to this site as a group to complete some activities about taxes!!! The Penny Pincher- You are our budget expert. Your job is to figure out the best way to pay all of the bills and still save up a little more money at the end of the each month. To start, take a shot at balancing the national budget. After you have done this, check out these links for a few extra tips on budgeting. They have some really good ideas in these. Federal Budgeting Tips Celebrity Inspiration Federal Help pt. 2 The Beggar- You are the loans expert. Your task is to learn allllll about the nitty gritty when it comes to them. What qualifies you for one? Who doesn't qualify? What is credit? Here are some links to explore to help with your search. Loans/Finance Crash Course Loans 101 Credit Scores Marriage complications Practice with interest rates The Average Joe- For you, Joe, whether that is your name or not, have the most interesting task. You will be engaging in activities with your classmates all at the same time, bouncing from person to person, while gaining info on their topic and learning as much as you can from them about it. As the Average Joe, you will be in charge of the crafting and presenting part of the project. You will rely on your classmates research and newfound knowledge to build some kind of craft representing what your group has learned, and also spearhead the presentation of said craft. You can get as creative as you want with this, just have realistic expectations and don't spend too much time or money where it is not needed.

Evaluation

Based out of 40 total points. Based off of effort, creativity, knowledge, and presentation.

Category and Score	Poor (1-3 points)	Acceptable (4-6 points)	Sublime (7-10 points)		Score
Group Effort	Done mainly by 1-2 students.	Most work done together, but one or two students sat out.	All students put in equal effort.		/10
Content Knowledge	Inaccurately/does not describe information.	Has some general clue as to what they are saying.	Has detailed knowledge of content.		/10
Craft	Little effort involved, not creative, last minute.	Some time invested, relevant, looks presentable.	Looks great, ties to presentation, lots of time invested.		/10
Presentation	One person talks, nobody knows what to say, poorly planned.	Most group members talk, somewhat engaging.	Engaging, all members involved, enjoyable to watch.		/10
				Total Score	/40

Conclusion

Overall, I hope this WebQuest helped prepare you for the outside world. Did you learn some relevant things today? I bet you did! Just know, kids, that life will be hard, but you can make it SO much easier on yourself by being attentive and on-task.

Teacher Page

This webquest is all about getting students aware and prepared for the next step in life after High School, whether that be the work force or college. For the most part, students don't get much real world knowledge inside of the classroom. This WebQuest aims to change that in an interactive way that makes students learn and teach that information to a fellow group member. The group member being taught by the others is in charge of the presentation and crafts, which makes the students all hold each other accountable in some way. The group then collectively teaches the class. This project should take 3-5 days ideally. My best advice for this is just to let students get right down to business. Some groups may get done a day or even two before others, so be prepared to ask them to either spend more time on their project or have something else prepared.

Standards

ITSE Standards covered by WebQuest: Empowered Learner Knowledge Constructor Innovative Designer Creative Communicator

Credits

Other