Applying Personal Criteria to the Scholarship Search

This lesson is designed to help students connect to their culture, family background, interests, and activities to discover available scholarships that match their lives and experiences.

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

1. Learn how to collect information about their culture, family background, interests, and activities

2. Connect their own culture, family background, interests, and activities to available scholarships

3. Evaluate the opportunities that exist to help them achieve a post-secondary education

4. Create a presentation that demonstrates an understanding of their own background and scholarships available

ACTIVITIES

PART 1

Content Knowledge

Pre-reading for activity

Students should read the blog post, *How to Search for College Scholarships Online*, before this lesson starts. As they read, they should highlight or underline sections that are new information for them about how to find scholarships and mark any terms they need to understand better. Students should use the tips listed in the article to begin their search. When they come to class, students should be prepared to discuss the article.

In-class activity

In response to the article and using one (or more) of the recommended ways to search for scholarships, students should get into small discussion groups and answer the following questions on the attached *Group Evaluation of Article* handout:

1. What kinds of scholarships are available that you did not expect? (list at least 3)

2. What are important things to know about yourself or that you need to be able to do to apply for a scholarship? (list at least 3)

3. How might knowing your family background, culture, and your own interests and activities help you find a scholarship?

After discussions, the student groups can present what they discovered to the class.

Grade Level: 12

MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:
- My Profile
- Resume Builder
- Scholarship Search
- Scholarship List

DOMAIN:
- College and Career Exploration

TIME:
- 30 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:
- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
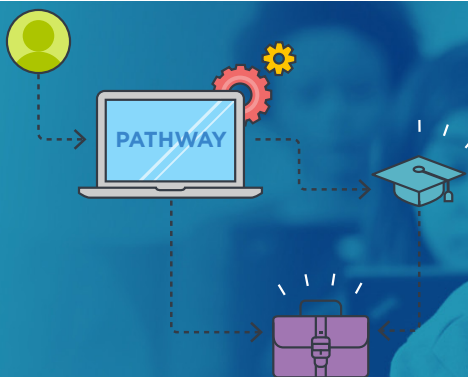- *How to Search for College Scholarships Online* blog post

FUTURE READY SKILLS:
- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- Time management

VOCABULARY:
- Scholarship
- Eligibility
- Requirements

Email any questions to: info@mefapathway.org

LESSON PLAN

PART 2

Applying Information

Students should use the attached *Self & Family Interview for Scholarship Exploration* handout to fill in information about themselves and to get information from family members. They will then use this information in MEFA Pathway's *Scholarship Search*.

PART 3

Evaluating Information

Students should navigate to MEFA Pathway's *Scholarship Search* in the *Pay for College* tab. For each of the filters that apply in the *Scholarship Search*, students should enter the information collected in Part 2 of this lesson.

Once results have populated, students should investigate at least three of the scholarships listed. Students should make notes about the scholarships on the attached *Scholarship Search Notes* handout and consider what the application requires and whether they would apply for that scholarship (and explain why if not). Students should add these scholarships to their *My Scholarship List* in MEFA Pathway, where they can view deadlines, update each application status, and notate any awards received.

PART 4

Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Combining the information collected in their self and family exploration, along with the results of their scholarship search, students should create a PowerPoint presentation that includes the following aspects:

- A title slide
- At least 3-4 images or pictures
- A slide that gives examples of what they discovered about their own family background, culture, or interests
- At least 3 slides that each list:
    - A scholarship that was in their search results
    - Details of that scholarship and the application requirements
    - The reasoning of why or why not the student would apply for it
    - A concluding slide detailing the most significant thing learned about scholarships

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Group Evaluation of Article

Read the blog post *How to Search for College Scholarships Online* and use one or more of the recommended methods to search for scholarships. In your small group discussion about this article, work together to answer the following questions:

1. What kinds of scholarships are available that you did not expect? (list at least three)

2. What are important things to know about yourself or that you need to be able to do to apply for a scholarship? (list at least three)

3. How might knowing your family background, culture, and your own interests and activities help you find a scholarship?

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Self & Family Interview for Scholarship Exploration

Fill in the following topic areas based on your own knowledge and by interviewing family members who might be able to help with the information.

1. What areas of study after high school interest you? List as many as you can think of that you might want to explore:

2. Where have you worked or volunteered? List details and time periods of your different work or volunteer jobs:

3. Where have your parents or grandparents worked or volunteered? Interview any family members for information to find out occupations or volunteer organizations that might impact your scholarship search:

4. What are the various ethnic or cultural backgrounds in your family and heritage?

5. Name all the talents and skills you have (it can be anything you think of: music, art, sports, technology, hobbies):

6. Do you or anyone in your family live with a disability or health challenge? This could be a source of scholarship help as well:

7. Have any of your parents or grandparents served in the military? If so, which branches and when?

8. What kinds of civic or community organizations do you, your parents, or your grandparents belong to? (Examples: unions, social clubs, non-profit organizations)

9. Where do you or your parents work? Many businesses and corporations have their own scholarship offerings. List any you discover.

10. Think of any unique or special things about yourself. Ask your family and friends to answer this about you too, to give you some ideas! You never know what might be applicable to a scholarship opportunity.

Scholarship Search Notes

Use this to evaluate at least three scholarships you find once you enter your personal information and do a scholarship search on the MEFA Pathway website.

Title	Why might you qualify?	What does the application require?	Would you apply for this scholarship?

Applying Personal Criteria to the Scholarship Search Grading Rubric

CATEGORY	EXCELLENT 4	GOOD 3	SATISFACTORY 2	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 1
Content Accuracy	All content on the presentation is accurate. There are no factual errors.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that seems inaccurate.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly inaccurate.	The content is confusing or contains more than one factual error.
Sequencing of Information	The information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Most information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Some information is logically sequenced.	There is no clear plan for the organization of information.
Effectiveness	The presentation includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topic.	The presentation is lacking one or two key elements.	The presentation is missing more than two key elements.	The presentation is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Use of Graphics	All graphics are attractive (size and colors) and support the topic of the presentation.	A few graphics are not attractive but all support the topic of the presentation.	All graphics are attractive but a few do not support the topic of the presentation.	Several graphics are unattractive AND detract from the content of the presentation.
Font Choice & Formatting	Font formats (size, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formats have been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
Conventions. Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	The presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	The presentation has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	The presentation has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	The presentation has more than 2 grammatical and/ or spelling errors.