**College of Best Fit**

**Learning Goals:**

1. Students will understand different types of postsecondary education institutions and what each offers.
2. Students will have the ability to match interests to postsecondary institution types

**Introduction (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes talking about the college application process.

Think about the following:

1. What was the process like for you?
2. What was the most difficult part of applying to college?
3. How did you decide which schools to apply to?

**Activity (~20 minutes) ¬ What college fits you?**

For this activity, students will match each student description to a school that matches their interests and goals. These can be based on the student’s academics, extracurriculars, and personal interests. Have students remain in their small groups and read through the description of each student. On the second page, they will use the word bank to match which institution type they believe is best for each student.

Emphasize that it’s okay if they don’t understand each type of school well, since you’ll be discussing it at the end of the session.

Group Share

Go through the worksheet as a class and have students share their answers. While going through each answer, take a minute to explain each type of institution and how that is different from the others.

* Public university
  + Larger with a wide variety of majors
  + Many different ways to become involved: clubs, sports, research, etc. •
  + Typically, classes are very large in the beginning
  + Tuition is typically cheaper and more students come from in-state
* Military Options include:
* Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard •
* Must be 18+ to join, but you do not need a college degree
* Private liberal arts college
  + Typically, smaller schools with smaller class sizes
  + Faculty focus more on teaching than research
  + Tuition is typically more expensive, with more opportunities for financial aid
* Community college
  + Offers a 2 year Associates Degree
  + Option for students to complete core classes before transferring to a 4 year school
  + Can start a career earlier in some professions such as: medical technician/assistants, mechanics, cosmetology, etc.
* Art school
  + Colleges that specifically focus on the arts, such as: photography, videography, graphic design, studio art, etc.
  + Offers a more focused degree with less broad core classes

**Closing/Assignment (~5 minutes) Wrap-up**

Leave some time for students to ask you questions

**WHAT COLLEGE FITS??**

**Directions:** Read through the description of each student.

**Jane** has always loved to play with Legos ever since she was a kid and enjoys solving puzzles. While in high school Jane participated in a lot of science competitions, and is involved in her school’s robotics club. She loves learning in bigger classrooms because it gives her the chance to hear other students’ ideas and questions. What Jane wants out of her college experience is to be able to live in the dorms, get involved in different clubs and organizations, and explore interests outside of just studying.

**Max** has wanted to write mystery novels for as long as he can remember. He loves reading various genres of books, and loves to share what he’s read with others. Max is in his junior year of high school and is deciding on what colleges to apply to. Max would like to go to a small school located in a small town, learning in smaller classrooms, and having a comfortable atmosphere where he can focus on his studies.

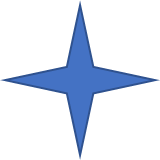
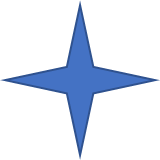
**Michael** has always wanted to become a film director. You can always see Michael with his video camera and a notebook. He’s very good at making and editing videos for his local dog shelter to help promote pet adoption. His favorite classes that he has taken so far in high school are Film Making and Special Effects in Sci-Fi Movies.

**Anne** wants to follow in her Dad’s footsteps and join the Air Force. She has always been the captain of her soccer team, and is always willing to take on any leadership roles when asked. Anne’s goal for the future is to go to college eventually, but wants to become somewhat more financially stable before attending.

**Austin** has always planned to go to college after high school, but is not sure what he wants to major in yet. He knows that he would like to eventually go to a traditional university but doesn’t want to spend that much money until he’s sure of what he wants to study. He prefers small classroom settings and does not mind missing the traditional college experience of living in the freshman dorm.

**Directions:** Match each student’s description to a school that matches their interest and goals. These can be based on academics, extracurricular, and personal interests of the students.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Student** | **Type of college that best fits them** |
| Jane |  |
| Max |  |
| Michael |  |
| Anne |  |
| Austin |  |

 Word Bank 

Public University (Public Baccalaureate)

Military

Private Liberal Arts University (Independent College)

Community College (Public CTC)

Art School