



COLLEGE & CAREER

# SECURING THE FINANCIAL AID BAG



# INTRODUCTION

It's only right that you secure the financial aid bag since billions of dollars in financial aid and scholarship funds are available to you each year!

Knowledge of these funds can be the difference between you attending the college of your dreams or not. There are so many myths out there that mislead students, families and schools about what type of financial support is available and who is eligible.

This lesson will dispel some of those myths and hopefully increase your confidence as you embark on your college application journey.



# SEL CONNECTION



It's important that you make **responsible decisions** throughout the college application process. Your decisions will give you a chance to access grants and scholarship money that might make attending the college of your dreams seem more affordable.





**ICEBREAKER**

**SCHOLARSHIP  
SCAVENGER MANHUNT**



## SCHOLARSHIP SCAVENGER MANHUNT

Get ready for a virtual scavenger hunt using education data!



### EXAMPLE

“How much scholarship money (estimated) does The U.S. Department of Education award annually?”



## SCHOLARSHIP SCAVENGER MANHUNT

Find the following information using the graphic organizer:

- What is the average amount of scholarship money received by a student whose family income is between \$48,001 – \$75,000?
- Who are Pell Grants reserved for?
- In 2015, how much federal grant money went unclaimed because 47% of high school students didn't complete a FAFSA?
- Which College major receives the highest amount of grant aid (\$)?
- Analyze the States Affiliated Scholarship Programs Chart. List 1-2 scholarships offered in the state your reside in.
- Name 3 types of scholarships.





# SCHOLARSHIP SCAVENGER MANHUNT

**Scholarship:** (n.) money allocated by a college or organization to assist students with paying for college. Usually merit-based.

**Merit-Based Aid:** (n.) (money) that goes to students based on their academic and/or extracurricular achievements rather than their financial need.





# SCHOLARSHIP SCAVENGER MANHUNT

**Grant:** (n.) in general, grants are money given to students based on financial needs.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** (n.) a form completed by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.





# LESSON PART ONE

# MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE



## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

### TRUE, FALSE OR SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN?

For each of the following statements, guess whether it is true, false, or somewhere in-between. Somewhere in-between means it's not completely true or false.



## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

I should live at home to cut college costs.

**TRUE, FALSE OR SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN?**



# LESSON: PART ONE

>>> GET MOVING!

## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

*you*

SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN



## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

Private school costs are out of reach for my family.

**TRUE, FALSE OR SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN?**

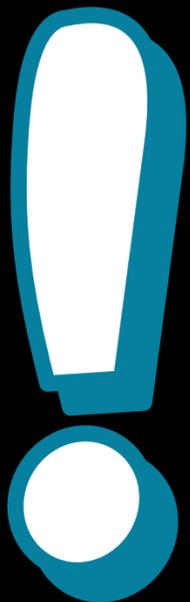


# LESSON: PART ONE

>>> GET MOVING!

## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

*you*  
FALSE



## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

I'm not a straight A student  
so I won't get aid.

TRUE, FALSE OR SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN?

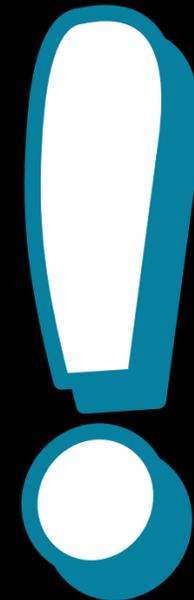


# LESSON: PART ONE

>>> GET MOVING!

## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

*you*  
FALSE



# LESSON: PART ONE



## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

While watching the video, consider the following questions:

- What should students do if they didn't get the scholarship or grant money they expected?
- Who should students contact for extra support?
- What connections can you make to the video?
- What questions do you have?



## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

You will independently research and identify three colleges you would like to attend but that seem out of reach financially.

Use College Navigator to research:

- Tuition
- race/ethnicity of the student population
- majors that align to their interests
- school admissions contact information (email and/or phone number).



## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

Next, contact the universities you selected via phone or email with questions to begin your journey of Securing the Financial Aid Bag.

### SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What scholarship or grant opportunities are available for students who are applying to [*insert college*]?
- Why shouldn't the cost to attend [*insert college*] intimidate me?





## MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

- 1) In groups of 3-4, share your questions and vote on the group's top 3 questions.
- 2) Write your top 3 questions on chart paper to display in the classroom. Each group will share out with the class.
- 3) You can borrow questions from other groups to add to your script or e-mail.
- 4) Contact the universities and begin your journey of securing the financial aid bag!





# DEBRIEF / EXTENSION





### SECURE THE BAG!

- 1) Any Icebreaker questions from the virtual scavenger hunt that weren't answered can be explored further.
- 2) Research and apply for scholarships offered in your state of residence.

