



UTAH
WOMEN &
LEADERSHIP
Project

BENEFITS OF COMPLETING COLLEGE: Overview & Better Jobs and Higher Pay

LESSON PLAN #1

JON M.
HUNTSMAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UtahStateUniversity.

EXTENSION

Benefits of Completing College: Overview & Better Jobs and Higher Pay

PURPOSE

Students will be introduced to the overall benefits of completing college and then will learn specifics about the associated financial benefits.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

In addition to being introduced to the lesson series in general, students will understand how obtaining education beyond high school can open career opportunities and help ensure financial strength for their future. This will show students that after finishing education beyond high school they will most likely find a job they enjoy while making enough money to support themselves.

OPENING JOURNAL PROMPT

Answer the following question: What are some reasons why you would want to go to college?

INPUT FROM YOU

The teacher will pass out the *Benefits of Completing College: Introduction and Overview*. After a brief review of this document the teacher will then distribute the *Benefits of Completing College: Better Jobs and Higher Pay* handout to the students and together as a class they will read the information and discuss as needed.

VOCABULARY ACTIVATION

The teacher will pair the students and pass out the *Active Vocabulary Sheet* to students and together the class will read the directions and start the task. The vocabulary words include the following: Salary, Wage, Benefits, Retirement, Career, Employment, and Earnings. Students will also be asked to create a sentence using each word to show understanding.

INPUT FROM YOU

The class will come back together and go over the vocabulary words while creating examples of each for an even firmer understanding. The teacher will then hand out the *Venn Diagram* sheet and have a blank Venn Diagram on the white board. The teacher will move into exploring the difference between a career and a job using the Venn Diagram on the board and having the class participate together to fill in the Venn Diagram.

GUIDED PRACTICE

The students will pair up and work through the *Value of Education* worksheet and hand in for teacher review.

Benefits of Completing College: Overview & Better Jobs and Higher Pay

CLOSURE

As a class, brainstorm strategies that students can start using to make sure they are on the path to education beyond high school. Have each student write down their strategies at their desk and hand in to teacher. Later on each student can pick one goal and write it on a colored sheet of paper, and together the teachers and students can create a goal collage on a wall in the classroom.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Closing Journal Prompt: What does this quote mean to you?

“My parents worked jobs so that one day I could have a career.”

ASSESSMENT

The teacher will pass out the Goals Activity worksheet. This can be assigned as homework or an in class assessment. It will ask each student to take two of the strategies that were brainstormed together as a class and use each one to create two personal goals surrounding that strategy:

Example: I will finish all of my math homework and ask questions when I am confused so I can pass my math classes and be able to take college level math classes in high school.

MATERIALS

Benefits of Completing College: Introduction and Overview Handout

Benefits of Completing College: Better Jobs and Higher Pay Handout

Active Vocabulary Sheet

The Value of Education Worksheet

The Venn Diagram Worksheet

The Venn Diagram Examples (for teachers)

The Goals Activity Worksheet

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Education Pays:

<http://trends.collegeboard.org/education-pays>

The Value of Education Brief:

<https://www.usu.edu/uwlp/files/briefs/1-value-of-higher-education.pdf>

Utah Women & Leadership Project - Clips and Videos:

<https://www.usu.edu/uwlp/resources/videos>

Goals for the Common Good:

http://www.measureofamerica.org/file/common_good_forecaster_full_report.pdf

Benefits of Completing College:
Overview & Better Jobs and Higher Pay

MATERIALS



Benefits of Completing College

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Individuals can receive hundreds of benefits by attending and completing college. To help inform all Utahans of these benefits, we have created 6 one-page handouts that summarize these benefits by category. These can be used with children, teens, and adults in any type of setting, including homes, schools, churches, communities, and college campuses.

Better Jobs and Higher Pay

The economic benefits of higher education are growing, and the earning gap between college graduates and non-college graduates continues to expand. An investment in education will lead to a lifetime of economic advantages, including higher earnings, lower unemployment, better employer-provided benefits, and greater job satisfaction.

Healthier and Happier Lifestyles

Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to live longer, healthier, and happier lives. This "halo" of good health and a positive mental outlook is passed along to the families of college graduates and even affects health care costs in the communities where they live.

Confident, Stronger Sense of Self

Enhanced self-esteem, personal development, and determination are gained through postsecondary education. Self-understanding and confidence can form a foundation for lasting achievements throughout one's adult life.

Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities

College graduates show a measurable improvement in factual and core knowledge, reasoning capabilities, and critical thinking, analysis, and lifelong learning skills.

Parenting

Higher education can have a tremendous impact on an individual's parenting knowledge, skills, and choices. Educated parents are more likely to be involved with their children's education and to promote good health and positive lifestyle choices.

Society

Education prepares individuals to be actively involved in and contribute to their communities. Educated citizens are more likely to vote, volunteer, and hold community leadership positions. Formal education enables individuals to "give back" to the communities where they work and live.

The following sources provided the data used for this set of materials:

- ✂ "The Value of Higher Education for Women in Utah," Retrieved at: http://www.utahwomenandeducation.org/assets/Research__Policy_Brief_1.pdf
- ✂ "Education Pays 2010: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society," Retrieved at: <http://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/education-pays-2010-full-report.pdf>
- ✂ "Goals for the Common Good: Exploring the Impact of Education," Retrieved at: http://www.measureofamerica.org/file/common_good_forecaster_full_report.pdf

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Individuals can receive hundreds of benefits by attending and completing college.



Benefits of Completing College

BETTER JOBS AND HIGHER PAY

Getting more education is the most certain path to better jobs and higher pay. Over the last 25 years the economic benefits of higher education have been growing, and the earning gap between college graduates and non-college graduates continues to expand.

College graduates earn more throughout their careers.

- ⌘ According to the report Education Pays 2010, "The median earnings of bachelor's degree recipients working full-time year-round in 2008 were \$55,700, \$21,900 more than the median earnings of high school graduates."
- ⌘ In the same report, authors state that "the typical bachelor's degree recipient can expect to earn about 66% more during a 40-year working life than the typical high school graduate earns over the same period."
- ⌘ Overall, adults with bachelor's degrees can expect to make over a million dollars more in their lifetime career than adults with high school diplomas.

Adults with higher levels of education are less likely to be unemployed.

- ⌘ Over time, individuals with at least a bachelor's degree consistently have about half the unemployment rate of high school graduates; this is true regardless of race or gender.
- ⌘ During the recent recession, those with college degrees stayed employed at a significantly higher rate than those without postsecondary education.

College graduates are more likely to obtain jobs with better benefits.

- ⌘ Those with a college education are more likely to be covered by employer-provided health insurance.
- ⌘ Adults with higher levels of education are more likely than others to have access to employer-provided pension plans for retirement.

College-educated people are more likely to have higher levels of job satisfaction.

- ⌘ Educated individuals are more likely to find careers where they perceive their work is valued and that give them a sense of accomplishment.
- ⌘ More educated adults who want/need to work either part- or full-time can typically find employment that gives them higher salaries along with increased autonomy and flexibility.

The economic impact of a college education is clear. An investment in education will lead to a lifetime of economic advantages—including higher earnings, lower unemployment, better employer-provided benefits, and even greater job satisfaction—for individuals and their families.

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The economic impact of a college education is clear. An investment in education will lead to a lifetime of economic advantages.



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Active Vocabulary Worksheet

Directions: With your partner, find the definitions of each word and together create a sentence using the word. Each of you must fill out your own sheet.

Salary:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Salary* _____

Wage:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Wage* _____

Benefits:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Benefits* _____

Career:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Career* _____

Retirement:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Retirement* _____

Earnings:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Earnings* _____

Employment:

Dictionary definition _____

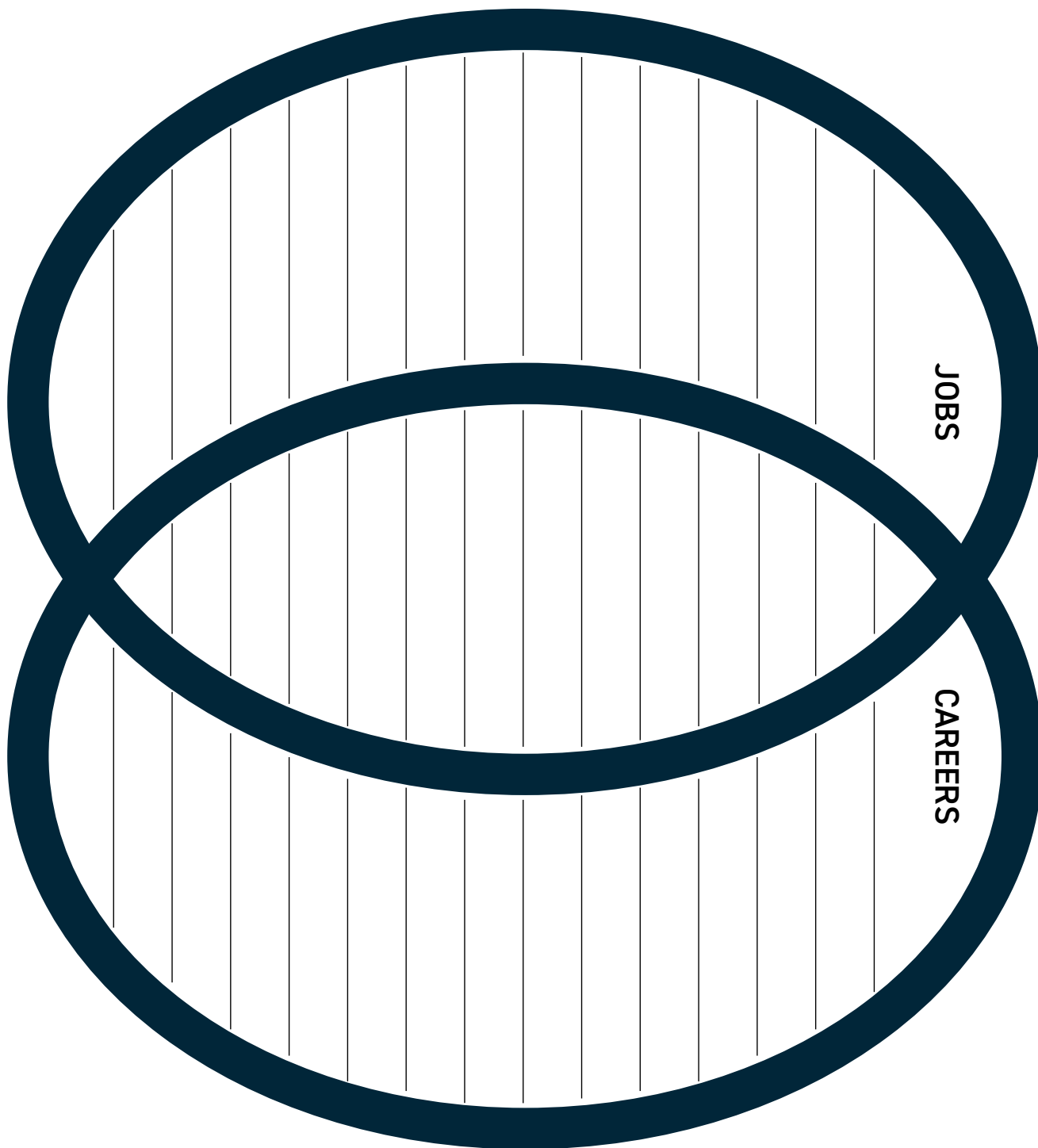
Create a sentence with the word *Employment* _____

NAME:

DATE:

The Venn Diagram

Directions: Follow my instructions and look at the white board as we all fill in our Venn Diagram together.



NAME:

DATE:

The Venn Diagram Examples

Similarities are written in the common area of the diagram:

- Jobs and careers both deal with some kind of work and employment.
- They also provide paychecks.
- They also provide some amount of networking

Differences are written in each area of the two distinct areas:

- While jobs are usually short term, careers are most usually for the long term in employment length.
- While some jobs do offer benefits, most career choices include multiple benefits that are usually more comprehensive like health and retirement plans.
- While working jobs, employees usually follow tasks and set instructions; while working in a career, employees are more likely to be leading, creating, and innovating in their work.
- While in jobs, employees are most likely to have a boss or manager. In a career, it is more likely that the employee is a boss or manager.

NAME:

DATE:

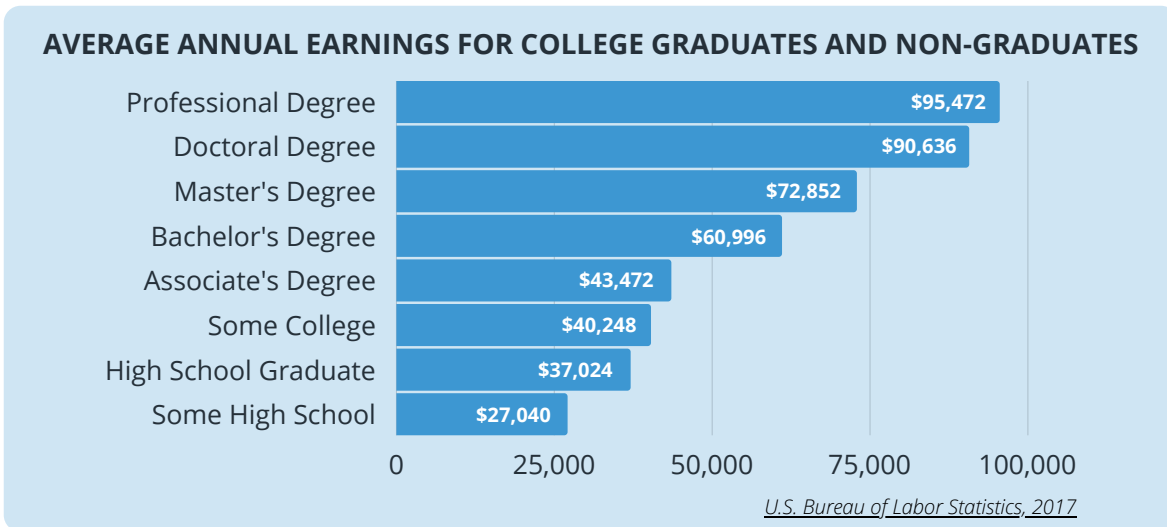
The Value of Education

You can make much more money by earning a college degree!

Directions: With your partner read through the information and answer the five questions. You can help each other with the questions, but each of you must fill out your own sheet.

At the turn of the 20th century, American working life was different. Only a minority of adults had a high school diploma. But by 1975, full-time workers with a bachelor's degree had 1.5 times the annual earnings of workers with a high school diploma. By 1999, this ratio had edged up to 1.8. As our society has continued to evolve, **education has become the best way to professional success**: pursuing a degree is the best way to receive training, gain expertise in a given field, and even guide you in making choices about your career.

Today, a formal, focused education is an essential. Employers have increasingly used diplomas and degrees as a way to screen applicants. And once you've landed the job you want, your salary will reflect your education. On average, a person with a master's degree earns \$35,828 more per year than a high school graduate—a difference of as much as 96.8%!



1. How much more money can you make if you graduate high school and then graduate with an associate's degree? _____
2. How much more money can you make if you graduate high school and graduate with a bachelor's degree? _____
3. How much money can you make if you only have some high school? _____
4. What is the salary difference between a person who holds a bachelor's degree and someone who holds a master's degree? _____
5. What level of education would you like to attain? Why? _____

NAME:

DATE:

Goal Activity Worksheet

Directions: On your own, write down two of the strategies you like best that we brainstormed on the board. For each strategy create a personal goal for yourself and how the goal will help you pave your way to college. Fill in below.

Here is an example:

Strategy: Do well in math class.

Goal: In math class I will ask questions when I am confused. This will help me better understand math so I will pass my math class in high school and be prepared for my math classes in college.

Strategy One:

Goal One:

Strategy Two:

Goal Two: