



UTAH
WOMEN &
LEADERSHIP
Project

BENEFITS OF COMPLETING COLLEGE:
Intellectual and Reasoning
Abilities

LESSON PLAN #4

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EXTENSION 

Benefits of Completing College: Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities

PURPOSE

Students will learn how achieving a postsecondary degree or certificate can help guide them in intellectual and reasoning abilities throughout their lives.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will understand how obtaining a postsecondary education can help them use better reasoning to make smarter decisions as they are faced with important choices throughout their lives. This will show students that after a postsecondary education they will be much more prepared to make better choices for themselves, the people around them, and their future.

OPENING JOURNAL PROMPT

Answer the following question: Do you think that you make better decisions when you have a lot of information or just a little information? Why?

INPUT FROM YOU

The teacher will pass out the *Benefits of Completing College: Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities* 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. The class will read the directions together and start the task. The vocabulary words include: Intellectual, Reasoning, Critical Thinking, Skeptical, Assumptions, Facts, and Opinions. 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 pass out *The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz*. Students will pair up and run through the quiz.

Once they have completed the quiz they will go through each statement as a class and discuss their answers.

GUIDED PRACTICE

The students will create their own lists of what they would want to learn or understand from going to college and how they think they would be able to accomplish that learning.

Benefits of Completing College: Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities

CLOSURE

The students can create an "If... then..." collage for the classroom. For example, "If I attend a college workshop then I will be much better prepared to apply for college."

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Closing Journal Prompt: What were your initial assumptions about college/postsecondary degrees before this lesson and what are they now? Explain.

ASSESSMENT

The teacher will hand out the list of celebrities who have obtained a postsecondary/college degree. This can be assigned as homework or in class assessment. The students will then select a celebrity and research his or her educational path and history. Students can find, for example, the college the celebrity attended, the subject of their degree, when they obtained their degree, what benefits they received from their education, and any other relevant information. The students can present and share this information in a variety of ways per the teacher's request.

MATERIALS

Benefit of Completing College: Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Handout
Active Vocabulary Worksheet
The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz with Answer Key
Link below to a list of 21 famous people with a college degree:
<http://www.ibtimes.com/celebrities-college-degrees-ashley-judd-rachel-mcadams-kourtney-kardashian-shaquille-oneal-and-more>

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:
Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities

MATERIALS



Benefits of Completing College

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.

College graduates have greater factual and core knowledge.

- ⌘ College graduates have a considerable advantage in comparison to high school graduates when it comes to factual knowledge.
- ⌘ Studies show that incoming freshmen increase their knowledge in core areas (e.g., mathematics, science, English, and social studies) 50 to 60% in two years and 60 to 75% by the time they are college seniors.

Adults with college degrees are more likely to have strong reasoning capabilities.

- ⌘ A report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities stated that higher education is the "best and most powerful way to build students' capacities to form reasoned judgments about complex issues."
- ⌘ Exposure to years of higher education improves an individual's ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of arguments by applying reason and evaluating evidence.
- ⌘ Studies have reported that the ability to comprehend and adequately present both sides of an argument or controversial issue is significantly improved after one attends college.

Individuals with college degrees have enhanced critical thinking and analysis skills.

- ⌘ College seniors have a measurable improvement in critical thinking skills; compared to incoming freshmen, they are also able to address sophisticated problems and provide more complex solutions.
- ⌘ College graduates are more skeptical about assumptions, more likely to accurately differentiate between facts and opinions, and better able to predict outcomes of their decision-making.
- ⌘ Adults with higher education also tend to have stronger quantitative and analytic capabilities, an increased ability to integrate ideas and concepts, and overall higher level of proficiency in writing, speaking, teamwork, and a host of other competencies.

College students develop enhanced lifelong learning skills.

- ⌘ Adults with higher levels of education are more likely to engage in activities and opportunities throughout their lives that enhance learning and add to their knowledge base.
- ⌘ College graduates are more likely to love learning; they also tend to have developed the interest and skills to practice continual learning and self-improvement.

Intellectual and cognitive development is a powerful benefit of higher education. In order to succeed in today's complex global work environment, most individuals need both a general education and the training and skills mastered in a formal educational experience.

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Intellectual and cognitive development is a powerful benefit of higher education.

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.

Intellectual:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Intellectual* _____

Reasoning:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Reasoning* _____

Critical Thinking:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the words *Critical Thinking* _____

Skeptical:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Skeptical* _____

Assumptions:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Assumptions* _____

Facts:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Facts* _____

Opinions:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Opinions* _____

NAME:

DATE:

The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz

Directions: Please answer the following questions as best you can on your own. Questions 1 and 2 are Multiple Choice and 3-6 are True or False statements.

1. Studies have reported the ability to comprehend and adequately see both sides of an issue
 - a) significantly increases in and after college
 - b) decreases after completing college
 - c) did not change either before or after college
 - d) none of the above

2. Adults with higher education have competencies which include
 - a) writing and speaking
 - b) teamwork
 - c) both a and b
 - d) none of the above

3. True or False:
If you continue with education post high school you will be more likely to understand the difference between fact and opinion.

4. True or False:
Individuals are more likely to make smart decisions with little evidence or understanding.

5. True or False:
A prediction will always turn out to be correct.

6. True or False:
Adults with higher levels of education are less likely to engage in activities to add to their knowledge base.

Benefits of Completing College: Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities

The Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities Quiz - ANSWER KEY

1. Studies have reported the ability to comprehend and adequately see both sides of an issue
 - a) **significantly increases in and after college**
 - b) decreases after completing college
 - c) did not change either before or after college
 - d) none of the above
2. Adults with higher education have competencies which include
 - a) writing and speaking
 - b) teamwork
 - c) **both a and b**
 - d) none of the above
3. **True** or False:

If you continue with education post high school you will be more likely to understand the difference between fact and opinion.

In fact, college graduates are more skeptical about assumptions and they are also able to address sophisticated problems and provide more complex solutions.
4. True or **False**:

Individuals are more likely to make smart decisions with little evidence or understanding.

College graduates have better critical thinking skills and are better able to predict outcomes of their decision making.
5. True or **False**:

A prediction will *sometimes* turn out to be correct.

College graduates are better at applying reason and evaluating evidence. Therefore they are better at making predictions or realizing that their prediction may not have been correct.
6. True or **False**:

Adults with higher levels of education are less likely to engage in activities to add to their knowledge base.

In fact, college graduates are more likely to engage in opportunities that enhance their learning long after completing their education.