



UTAH
WOMEN &
LEADERSHIP
Project

BENEFITS OF COMPLETING COLLEGE:

Society

LESSON PLAN #6

JON M.
HUNTSMAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UtahStateUniversity.

EXTENSION 

Benefits of Completing College: Society

PURPOSE

Students will learn the community, civic, and societal benefits from obtaining a postsecondary education.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will understand how obtaining a postsecondary education will help them become more aware of their community and civic roles and responsibilities.

OPENING JOURNAL PROMPT

Answer the following question: How important is it for you to be able to understand how to voice your opinion by way of voting? Please explain.

INPUT FROM YOU

The teacher will pass out the *Benefit of Completing College: Society* 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: Civic Participation, Social Programs, Voting, Incarceration, Community Engagement, and Volunteerism. 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 hand out the *Educated Society Quiz*. Individually the students take the quiz.

Once everyone is done as a class the teacher will go through the quiz and the teacher can use the key to spark discussion of the correct answers.

GUIDED PRACTICE

With a partner have the students work through the *Brainstorming Graphic Organizer* worksheet. This worksheet asks them to think of other possible civic and community benefits that can come from acquiring more education.

Benefits of Completing College: Society

CLOSURE

The class can come back together and go over the *Brainstorming Graphic Organizer* worksheet. Each group can share what they wrote for each benefit and why they think this is a good example.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Closing Journal Prompt: What does this quote mean to you now that we have learned the civic, community, and societal benefits of a postsecondary education?

“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”

ASSESSMENT

The students can research opportunities for volunteer or service learning projects in their area and present them to the class. The class can vote on a service learning project they would like to work on and the teacher can coordinate as needed.

MATERIALS

Benefits of Completing College: Society Handout
Active Vocabulary Sheet
The Educated Society Quiz with Answer Key
Brainstorming Graphic Organizer 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:
Society

MATERIALS



Benefits of Completing College

SOCIETY

College graduates participate substantially more than their less educated peers in civic and community leadership and activities. Communities also benefit in numerous ways from an increasingly educated population.

College-educated individuals are substantially more likely to be engaged in their communities.

- ⌘ College graduates are significantly more likely to volunteer in their communities than adults with only high school diplomas; the average number of volunteer hours increases with education level.
- ⌘ College graduates are more likely to provide aid to people in their communities; this includes an increased likelihood of donating blood.

Adults with higher levels of education are more likely to vote than those with lower levels.

- ⌘ Individuals with college degrees vote more often, and voting participation steadily increases with each year of education up through a bachelor's degree.
- ⌘ According to the report *Goals for the Common Good*, college "instills greater acceptance of free speech and democratic values, more understanding of the issues on which we vote, and increased confidence in our ability to select able leaders."

Communities with more educated residents have lower crime and incarceration rates.

- ⌘ Studies show a strong link between more educated communities and lower rates of violent crime. A one-year increase in the average level of schooling in a community is associated with almost a 30% decrease in the murder and assault rates.
- ⌘ One study found that nearly 75% of Utah inmates had not completed high school at the time of incarceration and fewer than 3% had completed college.

Society's economy benefits from more educated residents.

- ⌘ The increased earnings associated with more educated workers generate higher tax revenue at the local, state, and federal levels; governments also spend less on public assistance and social support programs.
- ⌘ According to an American Human Development Project report, "Education is the single most important factor in the determination of a person's poverty status: almost 24 percent of the adult population without a high school diploma is poor" compared with only 3.6 percent of college graduates.

Higher education promotes more prepared and conscientious civic participants and community volunteers. Education provides the avenue out of poverty and benefits society at large.

www.utwomen.org

UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP
Project

Higher education promotes more prepared and conscientious civic participants and community volunteers.



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.

Civic Participation:

Dictionary definition of Civic _____

and of Participation _____

Create a sentence with the words *Civic Participation* _____

Social Programs:

Dictionary definition of Social _____

and of Programs _____

Create a sentence with the words *Social Programs* _____

Voting:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Voting* _____

Community Engagement:

Dictionary definition of Community _____

and of Engagement _____

Create a sentence with the words *Community Engagement* _____

Volunteerism:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Volunteerism* _____

Incarceration:

Dictionary definition _____

Create a sentence with the word *Incarceration* _____

Conscientious:

Dictionary definition _____

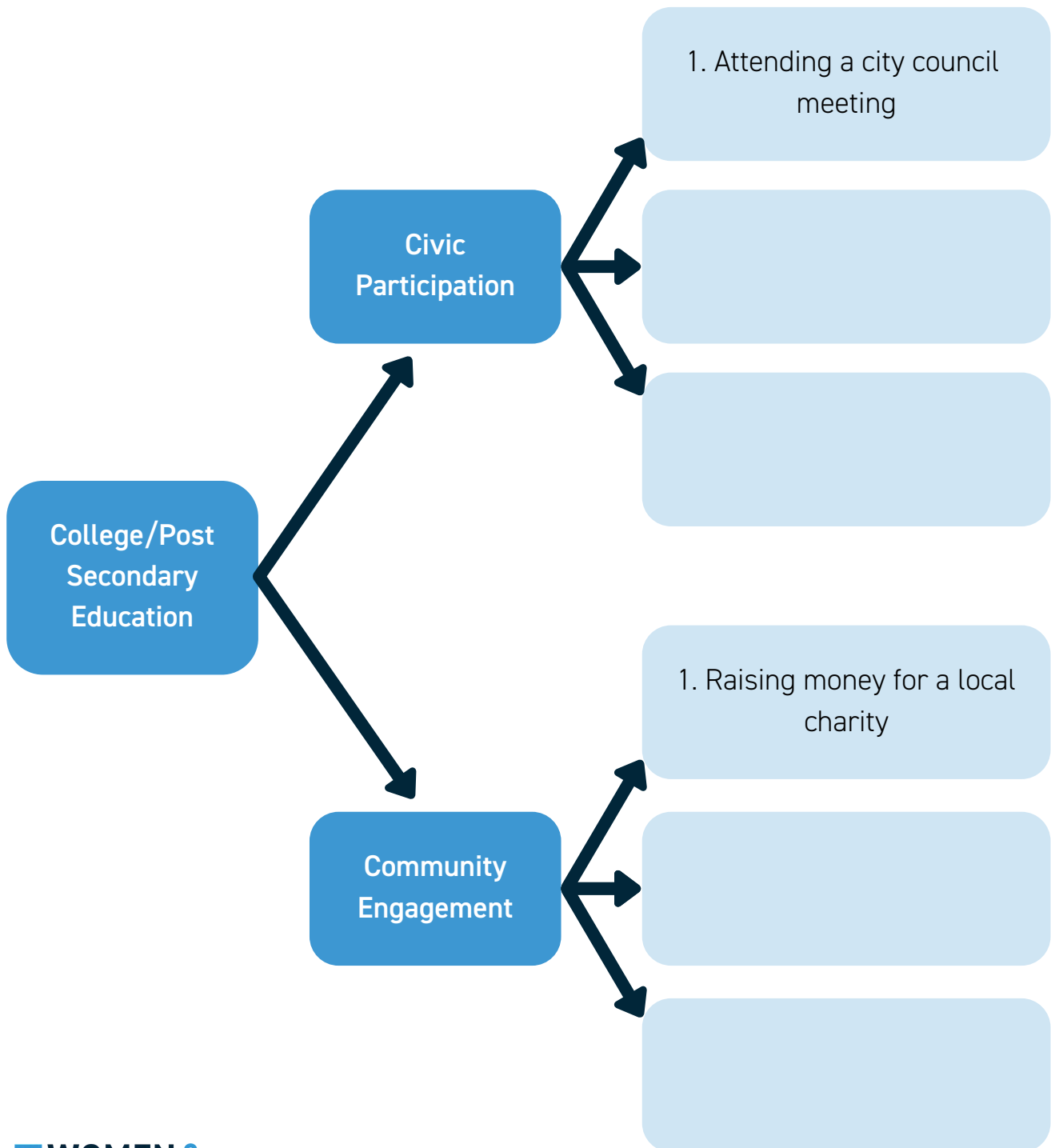
Create a sentence with the word *Conscientious* _____

NAME:

DATE:

Brainstorming Graphic Organizer

Directions: With a partner fill out this graphic organizer. On the left you will see the first two blocks are outlined for you. Now add to the right as you think of examples of how obtaining a college or postsecondary education can help you be a more engaged and thoughtful social citizen. You need to fill in two examples for each benefit.



NAME:

DATE:

The Educated Society Quiz

Directions: Please answer the following questions as best you can on your own. Questions 1-2 are Multiple Choice and 3-7 are True or False statements.

1. Society benefits from higher educated citizens through
 - a) higher tax revenue
 - b) spending less on public assistance
 - c) more community volunteers
 - d) all of the above

2. Communities with more educated residents have
 - a) higher crime rates
 - b) lower crime rates and incarceration rates
 - c) increased murder and assault rates
 - d) none of the above

3. True or False:
College graduates are less likely to vote than those with a high school education.

4. True or False:
Someone with a postsecondary education will be less likely to get involved in their community.

5. True or False:
High school students are more likely to volunteer than college students.

6. True or False:
College graduates are more likely to donate blood.

7. True or False:
A one year increase in the level of schooling in a community is shown associated with almost a 30% decrease in crime rates.

The Educated Society Quiz - ANSWER KEY

1. Society benefits from higher educated citizens through
 - a) higher tax revenue
 - b) spending less on public assistance
 - c) more community volunteers
 - d) **all of the above**

2. Communities with more educated residents have
 - a) higher crime rates
 - b) lower crime rates and incarceration rates
 - c) increased murder and assault rates
 - d) **none of the above**

3. True or **False**:
College graduates are *more* likely to vote than those with a high school education.
College graduates are more likely to vote by a 2:1 ratio. Attaining education beyond high school will help you learn more about your local and national leaders. In turn, this will help shape your support for issues and become involved in the voting process.

4. True or **False**:
Someone with a postsecondary education will be *more* likely to get involved in their community.
Education beyond high school provides opportunities to learn how organizations in the community work and how you can get involved. Volunteering gives people a rewarding feeling and can also help people discover their own passions and strengths.

5. True or **False**:
High school students are *less* likely to volunteer than college students.
Research shows that people with higher education participate in more volunteering experiences. So sticking with education increases your opportunities to volunteer which in turn benefits you and your community in many ways.

6. **True** or False:
College graduates are more likely to donate blood.
Like volunteering, donating blood or other resources is an example of giving back to your community which helps everyone, especially with such crucial issues such as blood supply.

7. **True** or False:
A one year increase in the level of schooling in a community is shown associated with almost a 30% decrease in crime rates.
One study found that nearly 75% of state inmates had not completed high school at the time of incarceration and fewer than 3% had completed college.