Weekly Activity Examples

Weekly Themes

Consider defining themes for each week of NC Countdown to College and scheduling activities related to those themes. We break up each week as follows: *Week 1: Imagine Your Future; Week 2: FAFSA and RDS Concentration; Week 3: College Application Week; and Week 4: I Applied, Now What?*

Activity Suggestions

We have activity suggestions below, listed by week. We have provided you with any resources needed, and each activity should take no more than 15 minutes. *Please note that many of these activities are also appropriate for grades 9-11, if you are interested in getting your whole school involved. The activity is noted with an asterisk if it can easily be used with younger students.*

Week 1:

a) Be Prepared*: Ensure that students have a log-in for CFNC.org by either making an account for the first time or resetting their password (if needed). This can be done via your Pro Tools account. Pro Tools information: https://www.cfnc.org/education-professionals/professional-center-and-professional-tools/

b) Understanding C2C: Have students review the student section of the C2C website, in order to understand the goal of the month and the three main components: FAFSA, RDS, and college admissions. https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/nc-countdown-to-college/for-students/

c) Career Assessments*: Have students complete an assessment on CFNC.org (i.e. Interest Profiler) and review career requirements. Students can then explore programs and majors at the colleges to ensure their plans are aligning. Assessments can be found here: https://www2.cfnc.org/learnAboutYourself

d) Where are NC Schools?*: Have students review the NC College Map located here: https://www.cfnc.org/media/r1dezlqk/nc-college-map-poster.pdf Show students where they are located, as well as local and distant colleges. Emphasize how many different colleges we have in NC, as well as the different types. This is a pre-activity to the next one below.

e) College Search on CFNC.org*: Have students utilize the College Search feature to plan and finalize where they will apply during College Application Week. Have them review admissions requirements and academics, to ensure the colleges they may apply to have their major or interest area. https://www2.cfnc.org/college-search

f) Vision Board*: A vision board is a representation of our goals and dreams; what better way to prep for C2C and CAW! The board may be a collage of images, words, and phrases that capture college and career goals. Here is a link to show more information and visuals: https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/8-ideas-create-your-own-vision-board.html

g) Extra Activity for 9-11th Graders: Have students review the CFNC college planning guide and review specific information for each grade level: https://www.cfnc.org/news/the-ultimate-college-planning-guide/ In addition, students can review the CFNC career planning guide here: https://www.cfnc.org/news/the-ultimate-career-planning-guide-make-your-career-a-reality/

Week 2:

a) Why the FAFSA?*: Have students watch the video on filling out the FAFSA here: https://youtu.be/LK0bbu0y5AM Talk about why we do it and the importance of it. After they watch the video, have them review this page at CFNC: https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/

b) <u>Scholarship Search</u>: Have students review the Scholarship Search section of CFNC, utilizing the search feature on the left side. Students should find at least one scholarship they are eligible for and plan to apply to. https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/

c) <u>Residency Determination Service (RDS)</u>: Students should review this video to understand RDS https://youtu.be/kRcSHU-K_Js Make sure students know where to go to complete residency after watching the video: https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/ and where to find resources they may need: https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/resources

Week 3:

a) <u>Who Would You Admit?*</u>: Have students complete the admissions activity found on page 16 here: https://www.cfnc.org/media/4rjh0mx5/student-activities-11th.pdf This is a great activity that gives students a feel for the decisions admissions professionals make each day.

b) <u>Writing Your College Admissions Essay</u>: Pass along this link on college admissions essays to give students tips on writing their essays: https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/college-application-resources/admissions-essay-tips/ Have students review the sample essay questions from colleges in NC and ask them to work on a sample essay at home. Review these as a group or in small groups as a short activity in their English classrooms or as a separate activity this week.

c) <u>Extra activity for grades 9-11*</u>: Have students complete a sample application located here: https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/college-application-resources/practice-application/

Week 4:

a) <u>Financial Aid Offer Letters</u>: Once students complete their FAFSA and admissions application, they will receive offer letters from the financial aid offices. Have students prepare for these by reviewing pages 16 & 17 here: https://www.cfnc.org/media/5v1fdxr1/student-activities-12th.pdf After they have reviewed these two pages, head to this site for videos and sample offer letters: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/for-parents/webinar-comparing-financial-aid-awards

b) <u>Types of Financial Aid*</u>: Students may be offered various types of financial aid: grants, scholarships, loans, and/or work study. Have students review this page and watch the short video to become familiar with terms and funding: https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/ In addition, make sure students bookmark this website for more information: https://studentaid.gov/

c) <u>Post-RDS</u>: What happens after you complete your RDS interview? Be sure that students know where to find resources on their RDS status: https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/pdf/RDSStatusPg.pdf; information on the reconsideration and appeal process: https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/pdf/RDSAppeals.pdf; and other FAQs: https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/studentFAQ

d) <u>After You Apply</u>: Congratulations! Students completed their admission application(s) to college. Now what? Offer students this handout to review: https://www.cfnc.org/media/yuqpmtlj/i-applied-now-what.pdf In addition, students will want to understand what it means to be waitlisted, just in case: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/after-youve-applied/what-to-do-if-youre-waitlisted

e) Students may also want to become familiar with the <u>College Redirection Pool</u>, in case they aren't accepted, they are waitlisted, or want to look elsewhere later in their senior year: https://www2.cfnc.org/crp