Basic 12 for High School — Workshop 1:
How will you make your college dreams come true?

Description:
The workshop is an introductory workshop to the idea that students are in control of their future and their dreams. The activities focus on introducing the KnowHow2Go website and allowing students to explore resources.

Outcome: Students will be able to explain the connection between their actions and college opportunities.

Learning Targets:
- Benefits of a college education
- College is a reasonable and realistic goal attained through planning and attention

KnowHow2Go Connection: Push Yourself!
- Freshmen: Why College?  
  http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students.html

- College Dreams- Videos of Why Go to College  
  KnowHow2Go National site  
  http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students/success-stories.html

Workshop Length: 45 – 75 minutes

Alternative Lesson with Fewer Technology Requirements:
- Sparking the Future  
  Exploring Options: Why Go to College? Grades 9-10 Lesson: 3  
  http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/SparkCurriculum/Grades9-10/STF_Gr9-10_Lesson03.pdf

Assessments/Evaluations:
  Number of students who have completed a “My Pathway to College”

Materials or Resources Needed:
- KnowHow2Go College Quiz  
  http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students/college-quiz.html

- KnowHow2Go: Why College?
http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students.html

- KnowHow2Go: Success Stories
  http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students/success-stories.html
Workshop 1 Agenda

How will you make your college dreams come true?

Quick Check-in: ................................................................. 5–10 minutes
The transition from middle school to high school is often challenging for students and they lose sight of long-term goals like college while trying to figure out high school. The Quick Check-in is an important way to get to know students.
- Welcome students
- Explain the structure of the workshop and the schedule for the next workshops
- Explain what a facilitator does and the expectations for students
- Draw students’ attention to the need for students to match their actions to their aspirations and dreams

Introduction: ................................................................. 10 minutes
In this first high school workshop, we recommend that the facilitator lead students through the pre-quiz in order to encourage students to answer all the questions. Students should be encouraged to keep their own score and record this in their journal.
- KnowHow2Go: College Quiz
  http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/middle-and-high-school-students/college-quiz.html

Whole Group Student Engagement: ..................................... 10 minutes
- Introduce the concept that much of the time in the workshop will be using electronic resources that students can use at other times. Resources will include videos and web pages.
- Challenge students to be thinking about what actions they have taken and need to take to be ready for college.

Individual Student Engagement: .................................. 30 – 40 minutes
- Give students time to explore the KnowHow2Go site
- Give students time to review and/or complete their “My Pathway to College”.

Closing: ............................................................................. 5 minutes
Discussion on the guiding question: How will you make your college dreams come true?
Follow-up Lessons for Workshop 1
How will you make your college dreams come true?

❖ Education After High School: Reasons for College
- Sparking the Future Lesson Plans – OSPI
  Education After High School: Reasons for College, Grades: 7 – 9, Lesson: 1
  http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/SparkCurriculum/Grades7-9/STF_Gr7-9_Lesson01.pdf
- Lesson Goals:
  o Explore students’ dreams and goals for life after high school.
  o Introduce reasons for postsecondary education.
- Lesson Description:
The lesson provides an excellent opportunity for students to begin sorting issues around going to college. Using a “College Facts Quiz,” the facilitator is able to help students begin to dispel the myth that college is only for some students.

❖ Exploring Options – Why Go to College
- Sparking the Future Lesson Plans – OSPI
  Exploring Options: Why Go To College? Grades: 9-10, Lesson: 2
  http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/SparkCurriculum/Grades9-10/STF_Gr9-10_Lesson03.pdf
- Lesson Goals:
  o Help students review reasons to get postsecondary education.
  o Learn about educational requirements for a career of interest.
- Lesson Description:
The lesson introduces the concepts that (1) nearly all jobs today require some type of education or training after high school; and (2) there are many different types of colleges and college programs, depending on a student’s interests, from a one year to two years to four years or more.
LEARNING GOALS:

- Students will describe their goals for life after high school.
- Students will accurately list basic facts about postsecondary education and describe several reasons why postsecondary education is needed to achieve their goals.

ALIGNMENT WITH STANDARDS:

- **Essential Academic Learning Requirements Grade 8 Grade Level Expectations:** This lesson is aligned with Communication 1.1.1 and 2.2.2. Students will apply a variety of speaking and listening strategies to participate responsibly in a small group discussion.
- **Common Core State Standards Grade 8:** This lesson is aligned with English Language Arts Speaking and Listening 1b, 1d, and 2. Students will participate in collegial discussions with a group, acknowledging new information and qualifying or justifying their own views as needed. They will analyze information that is presented to them and demonstrate that they can reiterate that information accurately.
- **American School Counselor Association National Standards:** This lesson is aligned with ASCA Career A1.3, A1.6, and C1.3. Students will articulate their personal interests and goals and identify how those interests and goals influence their choice of a future career.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **College Facts Quiz Handout** *(included in this lesson plan – one copy for each student)*
- **College Facts Quiz Answer Key** *(final page of lesson plan – print one for teacher)*
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

1. **Discuss post-high school goals.** Working in small groups or as a whole group, ask for student volunteers to share what they would like to do after high school. Some students may have definite ideas; others may not know. Discuss what students know about what it will take them to achieve these goals. How many know what kind of education they will need after high school? Explain that most careers require some type of education or training after high school. Talk a little about your own experience. How did you decide what you wanted to do? How did you learn what education you needed? (10-15 minutes)

2. **Explore college facts.** Tell students that nearly every career requires some type of education or training after high school. Explain that this is called "postsecondary education" because it is after (or "post") high school (secondary education). Postsecondary education is often called college. Ask students if they think they know a lot or a little about college. Ask student volunteers to share a few things they know. Then distribute the **College Facts Quiz** and have students complete it, working individually or in small groups. (5-10 minutes)

3. **Review reasons for college.** Correct the quiz with your students. Ask if knowing the reasons to go to college makes students more likely to think about college for themselves. Why or why not? How can they share this information with their families? (10 minutes)

STUDENT PRODUCTS:

- **College Facts.** Each student should complete a quiz.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The following resources are helpful for middle school and early high school students, as well as for families who are new to the college admissions process.

- **Know How 2 Go:** [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)
- **GEAR UP** for middle school: [www.gearup.wa.gov/middle-school](http://www.gearup.wa.gov/middle-school)
- **First in the Family:** [www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)
**College Facts Quiz**

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE?**
**TAKE THIS TRUE/FALSE QUIZ TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW!**

Name ____________________________  *Give yourself 10 points for every correct answer.*

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1. 90% of high school students would like to go to college.

2. You have to attend college for four years to get a degree.

3. Only rich people can afford to go to college.

4. Anything that is taught in college you can learn on the job.

5. Many people don’t know what they want to study when they start college.

6. If your grades aren’t very good you can’t get into college.

7. There are lots of high paying jobs that don’t require any training after high school.

8. If you don’t know how to apply to college you can’t go.

9. If you’re tired of school there’s no way that you’ll like college.
10. Middle school and high school don’t really matter.

TOTAL SCORE: ________

What did you learn? Take notes on the back of the sheet.
Help your students check their answers. Then discuss what they’ve learned.

1. **90% of high school students would like to go to college.**
   - **TRUE.** Most teens say that they want to go to college. But getting to college takes hard work and careful planning, such as taking the right courses during high school. Remind students that if they think they would like to go to college – like most teenagers – they will need to work hard during middle school and high school.

2. **You have to attend four years of college to get a degree.**
   - **FALSE.** There are many types of colleges and degrees. Some careers require one or two years of college. Others require four years. Still others require more than four years. It just depends on what you want to do.

3. **Only rich people can afford to go to college.**
   - **FALSE.** College can be expensive, but that doesn’t mean you can’t afford to go. There are many ways to pay for a college education. Most students get financial aid to help pay for college, and most aid is based on need. That means that the less money you have, the more aid you can get. Tuition at community colleges is less expensive than four-year colleges, and you may be able to live at home to save money.

4. **Anything that is taught in college you can learn on the job.**
   - **FALSE.** Most jobs require some on-the-job training. However, for most jobs, you will also need technical or problem-solving skills before you are hired, and that almost always requires you to get some level of education after graduating from high school.

5. **Many people don’t know what they want to study when they start college.**
   - **TRUE.** Join the crowd! Lots of college students haven’t decided on a major or a career. At most colleges, you can spend your first year taking different courses so that you can narrow your choices. Academic advisors and counselors will help you make the decision.

6. **If your grades aren’t very good you can’t get into college.**
   - **FALSE.** Different colleges have different requirements for admission. Colleges also look at other qualities in addition to your grades, such as activities, involvement in the community, and hardship.

7. **There are lots of high paying jobs that don’t require any training after high school.**
   - **FALSE.** There are jobs available to people who only have a high school diploma, but most of these jobs are low-paying and won’t support a family. Statistics show that, on average, the more education you have, the more money you will make and the easier it will be for you to find a good job.

8. **If you don’t know how to apply to college you can’t go.**
FALSE. If you don’t know how to apply to college, you can get help during high school from your school’s guidance counselor. There are also many great resources on the Internet to help.

9. If you’re tired of school there’s no way that you’ll like college.  
   FALSE. College is very different from high school or middle school. You’ll choose a major and you’ll be able to take specialized courses that interest you.

10. Middle school and high school don’t really matter.  
    FALSE. Working hard in middle school and high school is the most important thing you can do to prepare for college… and an exciting career.
LEARNING GOALS:

- Students will list reasons postsecondary education would benefit them.
- Students will identify a potential college major to prepare for a career of interest.

ALIGNMENT WITH STANDARDS:

- **Essential Academic Learning Requirements Grades 9/10 Grade Level Expectations:** This lesson is aligned with Writing 2.2.1 and Educational Technology 1.3.2 and 1.3.3. Students will complete a short career-based writing exercise. They will locate, analyze, and use information from an online college and career database.
- **Common Core State Standards Grades 9-10:** This lesson is aligned with English Language Arts Writing 4, 7, and 8. Students will prepare a short writing exercise and conduct a focused research project using an online database to find and analyze information.
- **American School Counselor Association National Standards:** This lesson is aligned with ASCA Academic B2.7 and C1.6 and Personal & Social B1.9. Students will identify postsecondary options consistent with their interests and demonstrate how school success will enhance future opportunities. They will identify short- and long-term goals.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **Why Go To College? Handout** *(final pages of this lesson plan)*
- **Internet access** *(for students to research majors and careers)*

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:
2. **Discuss students' postsecondary goals.** Tell students that there are many options for what they can do after they graduate from high school. Ask for volunteers to share some of those options and write each of them on the board, leaving room to write underneath each word: four-year college, two-year (community) college, a certificate from a technical school, an apprenticeship, the military, or a job. Then divide students into small groups – one for each post-high school option – and ask them to come up with one reason why this option could be good and one option why it might not. Then have each group write their reasons on the board underneath the option. (For example, students might say that going to four-year college could help them learn a lot and find a good job, but that it could be very expensive and leave them in debt.) If you want, conclude the discussion with a show of hands: how many students are planning to pursue each of the options? Why? (10-15 minutes)

4. **Review reasons to attend college.** Distribute the Why Go To College? Handout and review the first page with your students. Focus in particular on two points that will build from your earlier discussion: (1) nearly all jobs today require some type of education or training after high school; and (2) there are many different types of colleges and college programs, depending on a student’s interests, from several months to two years to four years or more. Does this information change how students feel about college? Why or why not? (5-10 minutes)

5. **Check educational requirements.** The most compelling reason in favor of college, though, is because a student realizes it is the best way to achieve his or her goals. Ask students to complete the second page of the handout. They can use the College Board’s Majors & Careers Central to identify potential majors or careers and then find postsecondary programs that offer training in that major: [www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html). (15-20 minutes)

**STUDENT PRODUCTS:**

- Why Go To College? Students should complete the handout.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

Your school might wish to hold a College Night for students and their families, where they could hear from school guidance counselors, graduates of your high school, or admissions officers from local colleges. In addition, you may wish to share the following resources to help students and their families learn more about preparing for, applying to, attending, and paying for college.

- **College Board:** [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  College search, career/major search, exam prep and registration, financial aid info
- **GEAR UP for high school:** [www.gearup.wa.gov/high-school](http://www.gearup.wa.gov/high-school)
- **Know How 2 Go:** [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)
- **First in the Family:** [www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)
A recent poll showed that most high school students want to go to college. Why is that?

**TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE**

- Fifty years ago, you could do without college: most jobs in the U.S. required only a high school education or less.
- But today, very few jobs accept people without education or training after high school.
- In the future, college will be even more important: nearly all of the fastest growing occupations require postsecondary education.

**TO EARN A GOOD LIVING**

- A person with a college degree has higher earning potential than someone with only a high school diploma.
- Someone with a college degree is also much less likely to be unemployed.

**TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS**

Reaching your dream probably requires college.

- You may need a one-year certificate program from a technical college.
- You may need an apprenticeship program.
- You may need a two-year associate’s degree from a community college.
- You may need a four-year bachelor’s degree.
- Or you may need advanced education beyond college.
No matter what your dream, there is a college and a program for you.

**WHAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU?**

Use your school guidance center or the College Board’s Majors & Careers Central (www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html) to complete the next page.
## WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

Use your school guidance center or the College Board’s Majors & Careers Central (www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html) to complete this page.

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<th><strong>A career that interests me is (career name and reason):</strong></th>
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<th><strong>To prepare for this career my college major (or program) could be:</strong></th>
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<th><strong>I would need the following degree:</strong></th>
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<th><strong>One college I could attend for this major is (college name, location, reason):</strong></th>
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<th><strong>High school courses I should take to prepare include:</strong></th>
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