Lesson plan

My college fair preparation

Length:
90 minutes

About this lesson

Students will make the most of their college fair experience with some pre-fair school research in Xello, followed by preparation of questions to ask college fair representatives during the fair. After the fair, students will reflect on their experience in a Xello assignment or survey and share their portfolio.

Learning objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- Research 5 school profiles in Xello that offer a major of interest to them
- Consider each school from the perspective of it being a target, stretch, or safety school
- Research entrance requirements and other information for their schools and search for scholarship options for each
- Prepare questions in advance of college fair attendance to help them have meaningful interactions with college representatives and gain insights into different schools
- Capture and share the information gathered from their research in Xello Portfolios and reflect on their college fair attendance to help refine college application plans

Inquiry prompts

- What is the purpose of a college fair? What are the benefits?
- What factors are most important to me when choosing a college (for instance, location, size, majors, campus life, costs)?
- How can I ensure that my college choices align with my personal and academic goals?

Before you begin

1. Decide how you will share the College fair preparation handout (also available in Spanish) with your students (hard copy versus shared through **Assignments** in Xello). Review the worksheet and create the assignment or prepare the handout, accordingly.
2. Edit and distribute the College fair flyer (also available in Spanish), in advance of the event.
3. Create a college fair Survey or Assignment in Xello for your students to complete after they attend the fair. Encourage students to share their completed Xello Portfolios.
   1. Title the survey or assignment **College fair reflections**.
      Select from the following questions or create your own:
      - Was attending the fair a good use of your time?
      - Reflect on what you learned about your schools of interest, either in preparation for the event or during the fair. Did you learn any new or surprising information?

Materials Required

- Computers or tablets with Internet access
- College fair preparation handout (also available in Spanish)
- College fair flyer (also available in Spanish)

Artifacts

- Completed College fair preparation handout (also available in Spanish)
- College fair reflection in a Xello assignment or survey
- Completed Xello portfolio

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- What are your top school choices? Did speaking to the representatives change your opinion of any of the schools?
- Were your questions answered? If not, what questions do you still have?
- Were there schools not represented at the fair you wish had attended? If so, what other post-secondary option are you considering?
- Do you need help finding school contact information?
- How confident do you feel about applying for college?
- Which financial aid options are you considering to help you pay for college?
- Have you learned about any specialized college entrance or transition programs (first-generation, honors, bridge)?
- Outline 3 things you'll do next. Possible actions could include:
    - Scheduling a campus visit
    - Following up with a representative
    - Doing additional research on specific programs or financial aid

Teaching strategies

1. Start by presenting and reviewing the College fair flyer (also available in Spanish), with your students.
2. Allow students five minutes to reflect on the following question:
    - What is the purpose of a college fair? What are the benefits?
3. Instruct students to log in to their Xello accounts and work through the College fair preparation handout (also available in Spanish). Remind them to save or bookmark their shared portfolio weblink so they can have their questions with them at the fair.
4. End the activity with a 10-minute class discussion using the inquiry prompts.
    - What factors are most important to me when choosing a college (for instance, location, size, majors, campus life, costs)?
    - How can I ensure that my college choices align with my personal and academic goals?
5. Don't forget to have students complete the Post-college fair Xello **Survey** or **Assignment** after attending the event.

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