

**If Only I Had Known....**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisement Activity**  
**Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes**

**Georgia's Teachers-As-Advisors Framework**

**Goal: 12-2.3 Identify and participate in ongoing, lifelong-learning experiences to enhance the ability to perform effectively and work in a diverse and changing world.**

**Competencies:**

c. Describe the requirements for transition from one learning level to the next.

**Objectives:** Students will evaluate important lessons learned during high school to offer a smoother transition to college or work. Students will develop a "High School 101" cheat sheet for upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Materials:**

- None

**Activity:**

1. *Say:* Welcome to advisement. I am glad to see you. I hope all is going well with you and your family. Let's get started with today's activity. Do you have any questions about senior "stuff"? Make sure you are doing what you need to do to graduate---announcements ordered, cap and gown ordered, no late fees pending, final transcript request and above all you are passing ALL your classes. If you need some assistance, PLEASE let me know. Today in advisement is going to be fun; we are going to create some helpful hints for the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Since you are about to graduate, we thought it would be a great idea to have you help us with next year's incoming freshmen. You've been around now for four years, you know the tricks, you know what to do and what not to do. Let me start by asking you a question.
2. *Ask:* What do you wish you had known about high school. Possible answers:
  - a. Graduation requirements
  - b. Classes they should have taken
  - c. Order of the classes they should have taken
  - d. What they should have studied more
  - e. What they should not have waited too late to do
  - f. Encourage seniors to add the more practical issues like "don't pay for pep rally tickets" or "girls don't use the restroom on the Science wing" or "there really isn't a swimming pool under the gym floor" "go to ALL the football games, they are fun" or "play in the band, we have fun" or "our teachers are great, get to know them"
3. *Say:* I will need a volunteer to type these on my computer as we discuss them. *Wait for a volunteer.* *Remind* students to keep this very positive...don't frighten them. Our goal is to give advice and dispel some of the fears the new 9<sup>th</sup> graders maybe having. Let's get started!
4. *After completing the assignment, say:* Every senior advisement is doing this today. We will keep these and give your "wish list" to the 9<sup>th</sup> graders coming in the fall. Thank you for helping us make the transition a little easier for our new 9<sup>th</sup> graders next year. The end of the year is almost here. I am going to miss you when you're gone! Have a great day and stay safe.

Adapted from the Floyd County Teachers as Advisors Lesson Plans, "If only I had known...": Tishanna DeFoor, Teacher at Armuchee High School, Floyd County Schools, Rome, GA