

**Why Postsecondary Education? Part I**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisement Activity**  
**Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes**

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

Goal 8-1.3 - Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information from the local, state, and national levels during the career exploration and planning process

a. Locate and utilize career information that includes occupational, education and training, employment, and economic information

**Objectives:** Students will understand the importance of continuing one's education after high school.

**Materials:** Handout, Page 1 and 2 of the FinAid.org *College Power Bulletin* (print front and back to save paper) at <http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/CollegePowerBulletin.pdf> ; print enough for each student and encourage them to take this flyer home to share with their family. The *College Power Bulletin* is a free four-page handout created by FastWeb.org to encourage all students to consider pursuing a college education. It motivates students by discussing why they should go to college and how to pay for college, and also includes a who's who of famous college graduates and quotes about the value of education. The *College Power Bulletin* presents simplified descriptions that do not assume any prior interest in college or familiarity with student aid terminology. The *College Power Bulletin* markets the benefits of a college education in terms that matter to students. There is also a power point presentation, *College Is Power* at <http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/earlyawareness.phtml>

[FinAid.org](http://www.finaid.org)-Permission is expressly granted for college and university financial aid offices and high school guidance counselors to print sections of FinAid and distribute them for free to their students, provided the copyright notice is retained intact and the material is clearly attributed to the source.

There are significant differences in college matriculation rates among lower, middle and upper income students. While 48% of upper income students will have earned a college degree at a four-year college by age 24, only 7% of lower income students will accomplish the same goal. ([www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)) Creating a "college going" culture is important to ALL students/families and can increase income potential.

**Activity:**

1. *Say:* Good morning. Welcome to advisement. Today we are going to talk about why postsecondary education, usually referred to as "college", is important using the *College Power Bulletin* published by [www.FinAid.org](http://www.FinAid.org) (*Distribute the 2-page handout front and back, one per student*) Remember the more education one has the more income they can expect.
2. *Say:* Individually read this two page document *College Power Bulletin* (front and back). If you have any trouble understanding the content, raise your hand and I will help you; or, you can ask your neighbor for assistance if you prefer. *While the students are reading the two page document, write the questions below on the board or flip chart.*
3. *Divide the group into smaller groups of three. Ask each group to answer the following questions:*

- a. What are the two biggest reasons to continue your education after high school graduation? (Answers-Income and less unemployment)
  - b. What are 5 other reasons to attend “college”?
  - c. Read the quote from President Barack Obama. What message is he trying to send? (Answer-For the US to be competitive in a global economy, its’ workers will require more education.)
  - d. Circle the people on the back that you recognize. These people are all college graduates. How many did you circle?
  - e. What did the quote from MalcolmX suggest? Students should prepare today for what’s ahead tomorrow. In today’s economy more and more education is being required to be competitive in the job market.
4. Review the answers with the students. Ask: How many of you would like to continue your education after high school? Good, it is important that you seriously consider to “keep going” after graduation.
  5. *Dismiss:* That’s it for today in advisement. We will continue this discussion with more information from the College Power Bulletin. See you the next time we meet. Stay positive and study, study, study. Remember the HOPE scholarship requires a 3.0 grade point average ---get in the habit of making As and Bs.