

# 10 Ways to Use Admissions 101

CFWV's "Admissions 101" guide is a valuable resource for helping students explore higher education opportunities and submit applications for admissions. Here are 10 ways to incorporate the guide into your work with students and/or parents!

## ADMISSIONS 101 COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE DRILL

Teachers will divide the class into teams. Teams should have an even number. Each team will select a captain to lead drills. The goal is to prepare each team for a question and answer competition using the Admissions 101 guide. Allow prep time for each team during class. Provide team captains with the Q and A sheet (included in this kit) and the Admissions 101 guide. During the drill, teams will take turns answering questions. Each team member will be given the Admissions 101 guide and must be given an opportunity to participate. The team that answers the questions first, and correctly, whether from memory or by locating it in the guide, wins that round. The other team members must sit down during that round. The last team to have a student standing is declared the winning team. *Related resources: Q & A sheet.*

## ADMISSIONS KNOWLEDGE VIDEO CHALLENGE

Students research, compose and star in their very own video. By simply using a phone or flip camera, student teams are challenged to create an Admissions 101 video using content only provided in the guide. Bring in a college representative, a parent or an educator and allow them to be interviewed or even give them a role to play in the project. Copies may be distributed or aired on the school's news channels.

## ADMISSIONS ROAD MAP

Using the West Virginia colleges and universities map found in the Admissions 101 guide, have students identify and locate the two-year, four-year, and independent non-profit schools in West Virginia. Divide the students into three groups and challenge each group to identify key admissions factors for the type of institutions that their group is assigned. For example, group one may be assigned four-year public schools. Team members will locate each four-year school on the map and identify the admissions process for that school (e.g. required application fee, minimum ACT score, etc.). Students should also research the type of degree programs and career preparation programs offered at the schools. Once groups have completed their research, they will then display their findings in visible location for other students to view. This could also be a competition that allows students to display their work in hallways. Faculty or peers would serve as project judges.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS STORY CUBE

Students use the guide to create their own story cube by mapping out a path to postsecondary education. The activity is designed to assist students in English/Literature class in prewriting and identifying key elements of choice, and early postsecondary preparation. As students research information about the admissions process, they become familiar with college entrance requirements, West Virginia colleges and universities, understanding terminology and the term "college." See *attached example and template for the College Admissions Story Cube.*

## **COLLEGE BOWL: TEACHER EDITION**

This activity flips the traditional college bowl competition around. Teachers are challenged by students in a series of questions assessing their knowledge of college admissions. A panel of teachers that have yet to read the Admissions 101 guide are invited to participate. Students generate college questions and ask panelists a series of questions based on the Admissions 101 guide.

## **COLLEGE NEWSCAST: ACCORDING TO ADMISSIONS 101...**

Use Admissions 101 as a guide to get the word out about college. Use PA announcements, school news programs, the school newspaper or social media sites to feature facts covered in the guide. This is a great way to allow students to discover information and play an active role in sharing what they've learned.

## **COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE JEOPARDY**

Use a game of classroom Jeopardy! to test students on college knowledge. Similar to the game show, students (or teams) earn points for correct responses and lose points for incorrect responses. Jeopardy questions are based on content in the Admissions 101 guide. This activity may also be delivered by using power point slides or using responder sets. *Related resources: Jeopardy! Game Sheet*

## **DEVELOP A “SHORT LIST” CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT**

Ask students to read pages four through eight of the Admissions 101 guide as homework. Make copies of the College Fit worksheet within Admissions 101. In class, have students develop a “short list” of six to seven colleges or post-high school programs that interest them. Have students conduct research on the colleges or programs, completing worksheets for each college option. Ask students to evaluate their options based on the information they've found and to decide on two to four schools to which they might apply. *Related resources: College Fit Worksheet*

## **LEARN THE LINGO PROJECT**

Students create awareness displays in the hallway, classroom or on bulletin boards using the know the lingo admissions terms found in the Admissions 101 guide. Add a picture, create a logo or even add a school motto, but allow students to use their imagination in their design to get the word out about college terms.

## **COLLEGE MATCH MAKERS**

The Admissions 101 guide addresses the importance of students finding the college or program that's right for them. The guide outlines the factors that students should consider when making a college selection. Divide your class up into teams of eight and assign each team a different college or university. Tell the teams to develop a persuasive presentation to convince their classmates to attend their college or university. They should address each of the areas outlined as factors to consider in choosing a college. They should also address at least two of the factors listed as items not to consider and explain why these factors do not represent their college. Ex 1: “Not many students from our high school attend Example University, but don't rule this school out just because your friends may not go there. The University hosts mixers each Thursday night to help students make new friends — and there are more than 200 clubs active on campus.” Ex. 2: “The listed tuition at Example University is much higher than at other colleges — but they also offer much more financial aid, making the actual cost equal to or lower than other options.”

# Admissions 101: Q&A Sheet

## THE BASICS:

**Q:** What is a public college or university?

**A:** Two-year or four-year colleges or universities that are regulated and funded in part by the State.

**Q:** What is an independent non-profit college or university?

**A:** Non-profit organizations that do not receive direct funds from the State.

**Q:** What is a for-profit college or university?

**A:** A business that provides higher education as its service.

**Q:** What is a certificate or licensing program?

**A:** Certificate and licensing programs are specialized plans of study that are usually intended for students planning to pursue a trade. Most of these programs can be completed in a matter of months.

**Q:** What is an associate degree?

**A:** Associate degrees are typically awarded to students who complete a two-year period of study at a college.

**Q:** What is a bachelor's degree?

**A:** Bachelor's degrees (or baccalaureate degrees) are typically awarded to students who complete a four-year period of study at a college or university.

**Q:** What is postsecondary education?

**A:** Education and training beyond high school.

## COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS:

**Q:** If you apply to a four-year college, the institution will probably require you to take a college entrance exam to help determine whether or not you are ready for college-level work. The most common entrance exams are?

**A:** ACT and SAT

**Q:** This exam comes in four parts or sections: English, mathematics, reading, and science. Scores range from 0 to 36.

**A:** ACT

**Q:** This exam requires you to register to take the test and pay a testing fee.

**A:** Both ACT and SAT

**Q:** Preparing to take the ACT and SAT is important. There are plenty of guides and online tutoring to help you study. The state of West Virginia offers FREE online test prep courses at what website?

**A:** CFWV.com

**Q:** True or False? Most students do better the second time they take the ACT.

**A:** True

**Q:** True or False? Students should wait until their senior year to take a college entrance exam because they will have completed most of their classes by then.

**A:** False - students should take a college entrance exam in their junior year to allow time in order to meet some competitive admissions and/or scholarship application deadlines. Taking the test in 11th grade also allows students time to retake the test to try for a better score.

**Q:** What is the minimum score required on the ACT for admission to WV's two-year public colleges?

**A:** ACT scores are not required for two-year public colleges.

## **KNOW THE LINGO:**

**Q:** What is a credit hour?

**A:** Units of value given to classes; often based on the number of hours a student is expected to attend class each week. Some classes may be worth more credit hours than others. Students who take a certain number of hours are considered to be "full-time" students, while those who take fewer hours are considered "part-time."

**Q:** What is considered full-time status for a college student?

**A:** Twelve credit hours is typically the minimum required for full-time status for undergraduate students in West Virginia.

**Q:** How many hours per semester must a student complete in order to graduate "on time" (completing a four-year degree in four years or a two-year degree in two years)?

**A:** At least 15 credit hours per semester.

**Q:** What is financial aid?

**A:** Money provided to a student to help pay for college. A financial aid package is the combination of grants, scholarships, loans and work-study stipends or funds a student receives to help offset the cost of attending college.

**Q:** This is the term for a subject or discipline in which a student chooses to specialize. Many colleges ask a student to choose this on the college's application.

**A:** Major

**Q:** What does the term "orientation" mean?

**A:** An event hosted by a college to help new students understand the enrollment and college-going process. Students often learn how to register for classes, how to pay tuition fees and how to take care of other important details during their time in college.

**Q:** Why is "accreditation" important?

**A:** It is important to go to a college that has been accredited, meaning that a reputable outside organization has verified that the college meets a minimum level of quality.

## **APPLYING:**

**Q:** True or False? There is one application deadline for all colleges and universities in West Virginia.

**A:** False - application deadlines vary from school to school and even program to program. For example, the general admissions deadline at a college might be April 1, but the deadline to apply for its nursing program might be February 1.

**Q:** List at least one additional item — other than your application — that the admissions office at a college will or is likely to request.

**A:** An official transcript, ACT/SAT scores, a résumé or list of accomplishments and activities, an essay, and a letter of recommendation are all acceptable answers.

**Q:** What should a student do if he or she can't afford to pay a college application fee or ACT or SAT registration fees?

**A:** Talk to the school counselor or a college admissions counselor about receiving a “fee waiver.”

## **THE RIGHT FIT:**

**Q:** List three factors students should consider when deciding on a college or program.

**A:** Programs and majors offered; academic quality and opportunities; cost and availability of financial aid (net price); success rates; environment and campus life; and location are all acceptable answers.

**Q:** List two factors students should probably ignore when deciding on a college or program.

**A:** Their friends' decisions; school sports records; sticker price; fancy residential facilities; and nerves/normal jitters are all acceptable answers.

**Q:** To how many schools do experts recommend students apply?

**A:** Between four and six - at least one “stretch” school, two “fit” schools, and one “safety” school.

**Q:** What are some common reasons a school might be considered a stretch?

**A:** The school is highly competitive and admits very few of the total students who apply; the school intimidates (but still interests) the student for some reason; the student's test scores and GPA are on the low end or just below the average range for students attending this school.

**Q:** What is the most common reason a student might consider a school a “safety” school?

**A:** The school has an “open admissions” policy, meaning that any student who meets the basic criteria outlined by the admissions office will be accepted.

**Q:** True or False? You have to have an appointment to visit a college campus.

**A:** False - most colleges and universities are public spaces and students should feel free to stop by and walk around. However, it is always a good idea to meet with an admissions officer to set up an official tour!

# ADMISSIONS 101: STORY CUBE

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Write two to three sentences on each of the following topics within each section of the blank cube (next page). After students have completed this brainstorming activity, they should write essays outlining their personal goals.

What's in a name? Students should identify, in their own terms, what the word "college" means to them. How would they define a "good education" or a positive college experience?

Students should write three to four action steps they should take next to continue preparing for education after high school and/or their intended careers.

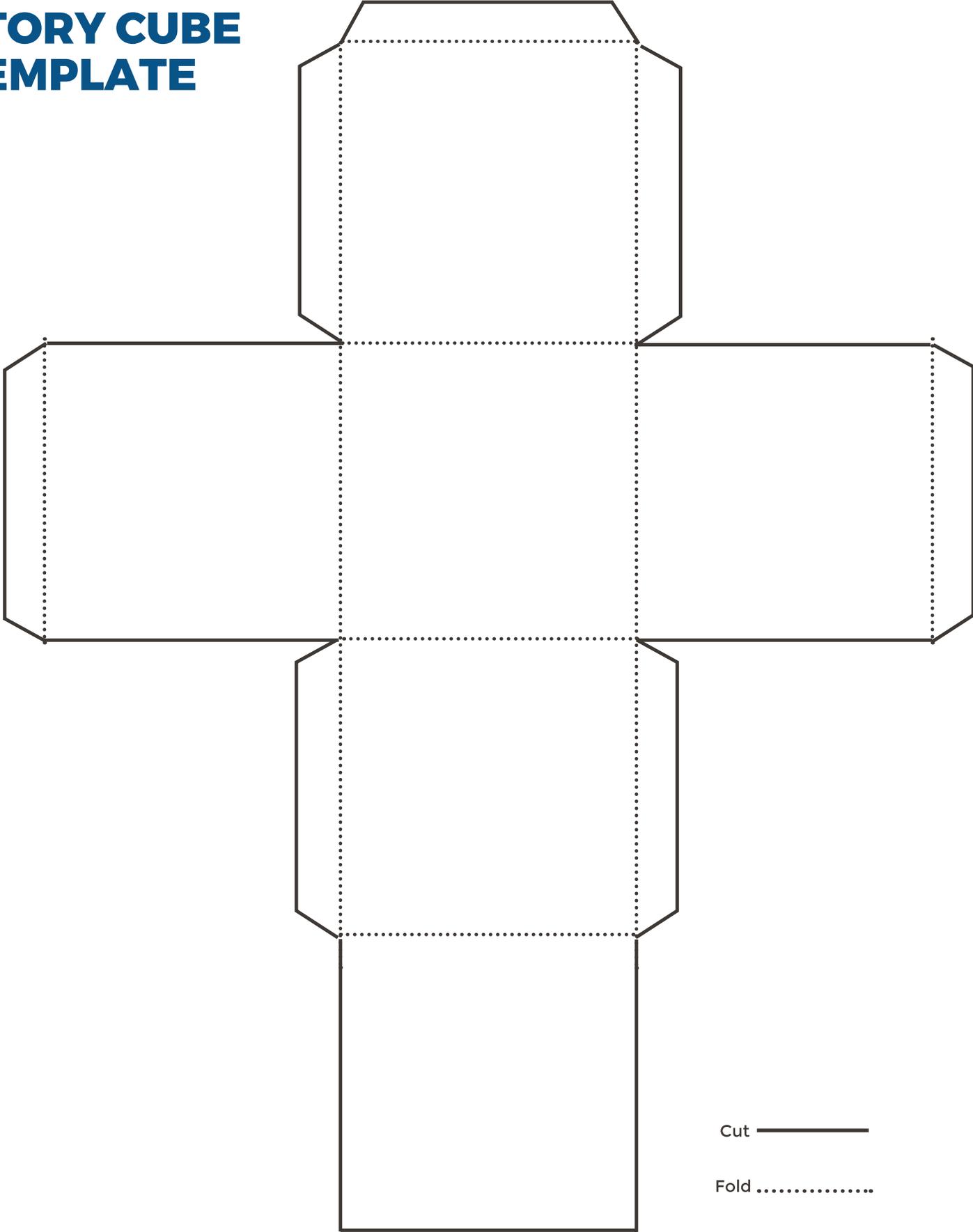
Students should identify a college or university they are considering attending and list one or more reasons for their interest in this school.

Students should list two to three things that motivate them to pursue higher education, training, or a career.

Students should identify a career choice and/or college major and list one or more reasons for making this choice. Students should note how their career goals align with their college options.

Students should describe the admissions process at the college or university they are considering.

# ADMISSIONS 101: STORY CUBE TEMPLATE



Cut —————

Fold .....