

BELL RINGER ACTIVITIES



▶ PLANNING FOR THE COST OF COLLEGE

1. Imagine you have no money for college. There's no savings account or parental help. You're on your own. Now choose a higher education path with this in mind, and think about how you'll pay for it. You can apply for financial aid, take out student loans and/or work part-time jobs to help cover expenses. You can go for four years, two years or 18 months. You might pick the military or skilled trades training. Explain your answer in four to six sentences.
2. Now imagine you have limitless money for college. There's nothing holding you back – where do you go and what do you study? Do you go to graduate school? What's your dream job after graduation? Explain your answer in four to six sentences.
3. Look at both versions and now find a compromise somewhere in the middle. What path fulfills all your dreams but with a practical way of paying? Explain your answer in four to six sentences.

▶ COST OF LIVING

1. How much money do you need to make annually to pay for your desired lifestyle?
2. Turn to page 83. Review the sample budget, then create your own at **Workforce.Arkansas.gov/Real-Life** (based on the lifestyle and degree you want) to see if you will actually be able to afford what you're picturing!
3. List five jobs that could pay for this lifestyle. Ideally, use a mix of skilled trades and jobs that require more higher education.
4. Rank them based on what you'd most like to do.

▶ THINKING ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE

1. Read pages 52-53 and review the differences in the branches of the military.
2. Imagine a nationwide draft has been issued. Which branch would you join and what role/job would you want to have within that branch? How would you take advantage of the educational benefits after you complete your service?

▶ CAREER QUIZ FUN

1. Turn to page 142. Take the career/personality quiz featured on the page. What career/degree paths were recommended for you?
2. Make a list of the top career recommendations.
3. Write a paragraph about why you think the quiz recommended these for you and why you would be interested in them (or not).

▶ SCHOLARSHIP HEADSTART

1. Go to the Financial Aid section (pages 68-79) for an overview on how to get money for college.
2. Make a list of all the scholarships that you might have a chance of receiving.
3. Several of the scholarships are representative of other available scholarships. List three things you might research online to find more scholarships you could be eligible for. When you finish, you should have a good start for when you need to begin applying!