

College 101: An Introduction (6.3)

Goal: Students will explore college options in California, define key vocabulary, and begin creating a college list in order to gain exposure to higher education opportunities.

Lesson Time Options

This lesson requires one 45-60 minute class period.

Student Materials

- Chromebook/Laptop
- Internet Access
- Worksheet

In This Packet

This packet includes everything you need to complete the lesson.

- Educator Guide
- Student Worksheet

Standards

The literacy skills of Common Core can be broken down into sections – reading, writing, and speaking and listening (language skills are outside of the focus of CaliforniaColleges.edu). In the lesson, students will practice the following skills:

Common Core Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Reading for Information	CCR-Reading 1, 4; Reading Information - 1, 4
Narrative Writing	CCR-Writing 3, 4, 7, 8, 9; Writing- 3, 4, 7, 8, 9

21st Century Skills

Students in today's classrooms are learning not only academic skills and content, but how to be productive members of global communities. There are work habits, experiences, and skills that students need to develop to be ready for higher education and careers.

21 st Century Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Critical Thinking	X
Digital Skills	X
Synthesizing Information	X

College 101: An Introduction: Educator Guide

Goal: Students will explore college options in California, define key vocabulary, and begin creating a college list in order to gain exposure to higher education opportunities.

Recommended Preparation

- Review the **Student Worksheet**. The worksheet provides clear instructions for students to complete the lesson. Determine how you will use the worksheet.

Getting Started

- You may print the **Student Worksheet** for students or embed the link in the materials you share with students.

Guiding Questions

What are the intricacies of higher education? How can we demystify college for our students?

Bell Work (5 minutes)

- Students will answer the bell work question: “What is college? What is its purpose? Are there different kinds of colleges? Do you want to go to college?”
- Allow 2-3 timed minutes past the bell for this work.

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Place students in small groups (groups of four are ideal for this assignment).
- Students should navigate to **College** and then **College Options in California**.

Activity (30 minutes)

1. Have students divide these sections to read: California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), and Private Colleges.
2. Students should read their assigned section and report their findings to their group members. They will record the important notes on their worksheet.
3. Students will use the **Vocabulary List** on the right sidebar of the **College Options in California** page to define the terms on the worksheet.
4. Students will then work with a group to brainstorm college names they have heard from popular culture, sports, friends, family, or teachers. Ideally, they should each look up at least one to three of these colleges on **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and add at least one to their college list on **My College Plan**.

Reflection (5-10 minutes)

- Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt indicated in the student worksheet (*prompt #06: “What have you learned about college? What else would you like to know? What did you learn that surprised you? What college would you like to go to?”*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
- Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Plan**.

College 101: An Introduction: Student Worksheet

Goal: You will explore college options in California, define key vocabulary, and begin creating a college list in order to gain exposure to higher education opportunities.

Part I: Introduction – Bell Work

What is college? What is its purpose? Do you want to go to college? Explain.

Now,

- Sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.
- Hover over **College** at the top of the page and then click on **College Options in California**.

Part II: Activity

1. Begin reviewing the page. If you are working in a group, assign one section to each person in your group; if you are working independently, read the whole page.
2. Read your section and report back on the most important information, then listen as other group members make their reports. Record the important details on your worksheet.

California Community Colleges	California State University
University of California	Private (Independent) Colleges

3. Define the terms below using the **Vocabulary List**. Make sure to rephrase definitions and use your own words. You can find the **Vocabulary List** on the right sidebar of the **College Options in California** page.

Term	Definition
Acceptance (also called Admitted)	
ACT (American College Testing)	
Degree	
Graduate Degree	
Major (also called College Major)	
Minor (also called College Minor)	
Room and Board	
SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)	
Tuition	
Undergraduate	

4. List colleges you have heard of below.

Part III: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **College Journal** section, find **prompt #06**:
“What have you learned about college? What else would you like to know? What did you learn that surprised you? What college would you like to go to?”
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.