



Making College Nights interactive

Looking for ways to interact with your audience? Use some or all of the suggestions below. For each part of the presentation you'll see a corresponding activity to consider and the purpose.

How college can change your life

Activity	Purpose
The presenter shares his/her personal example of how you (or daughter/son) chose the college you attended. Or ask parents in the audience to share their story about how they chose the college they attended.	Demonstrates the presenter has had the same experience Makes personal connection to audience
Small group opener – Business card – have students and parents in the audience draw their future business card showing the student's profession, name, title, city and where the student hopes to live/work. Invite students to share what they've written.	Networking opportunity, break the ice, gets the crowd moving
Ask audience to prioritize the four bullets for their life. Then ask who placed bullets one or two as their first choice. The number of hands demonstrates going to college could mean more than money, it could mean higher life satisfaction. Ask a parent who raised his/her hand to share how their job gives them happiness outside the financial realm.	Helps the audience relate to why going to college matters to them personally

Choosing the right college

Activity	Purpose
Ask if a parent changed their major often – if so how often and how did they come to decide on their final	Demonstrates changing majors is normal and part of the education process
Ask students in audience – how many of you know someone who has taken the SAT/ACT? What advice has that person given you? Ask a few students to share that advice.	Gets students involved in sharing content/experiences

Choosing the right college (continued)

Activity	Purpose
Consider buying an inexpensive box of thank you cards. Hand out one card each time someone participates from this point forward.	Energizes the crowd and gives them the “tool” we’re talking about

Paying for college

Activity	Purpose
Use the “Finished Files” slips of paper exercise at end of handout.	Demonstrates attention to detail and not overlooking the small things that can help when applying for and funding college education
Ask audience what is the key word in FASFA.	To highlight the word free
<p>Invite audience to raise their hands to share one thing they learned so far. Give a small prize to each person who shares something.</p> <p><i>Option: Have everyone in the audience stand up. Toss a soft, easy-to-catch ball to someone in the audience and have that person share something and then choose who to toss the ball to next.</i></p>	Audience provides a “sneaky review” of previous topics

Scholarship searches and scams

Activity	Purpose
Ask audience how many hours they think it takes to apply for scholarships. Divide the consensus answer into \$2,000 to show the dollars per hour.	Demonstrate the time commitment is low compared to the potential reward
Ask if anyone in the audience has visited these sites-if yes, ask a few participants for short summary of the site(s).	Enables other participants to contribute and educate audience about the sites
Ask audience who the counselors are at the school holding the College Night session. List the names on a white board if available.	<p>Enable students to connect a name to the HS Counselor resource</p> <p>Acknowledge the high school counselor’s role in helping students fund/go to college</p>

