



Making ECMC College Nights Interactive Guide

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 as well as the purpose.

How Education Can Change Your Life

Activity	Purpose
Share your personal experience of how you (or your child) chose the college attended. Ask parents/guardians in the audience to share their stories about how they chose the college they attended.	Demonstrates the presenter has had the same experience and allows presenter to make personal connection with the audience.
Business card (small group opener) – have students design their future business card showing their profession, name, title, city and where they hope to live/work. Invite students to share what they've written.	This icebreaker can be a networking opportunity and gets the crowd moving.
Ask audience to share how their job has given them happiness outside the financial realm.	Helps the audience relate to why going to college matters to them personally.

Choosing Your Path

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

Choosing Your Path (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 rewards them for participating in conversation.

Paying for College

Activity	Purpose
Use the “Finished Files” slips of paper exercise at end of this handout.	Demonstrates attention to detail and not overlooking the small things that can help when applying for financial aid.
Ask audience what is the key word in FAFSA.	Free Application for Federal Student Aid - highlight the word “Free”.
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.	Demonstrates the time commitment is low compared to the potential reward.

Next Steps

Activity	Purpose
<p>Invite audience to raise their hands to share one thing they learned so far. Give a small prize to each person who shares.</p> <p>Have everyone in the audience stand up. Toss a soft, easy-to-catch ball to someone in the audience. Have that person share something, and then choose who to toss the ball to next.</p>	Audience provides a “sneaky review” of previous topics.
Ask if anyone in the audience has visited the sites provided in the presentation. If yes, ask a few participants for a short summary of the site(s).	Enables other participants to contribute and educate audience about resources provided in the presentation.
Ask audience who the counselors are at the school holding the ECMC College Night session. List the names on a white board if available.	Enables students to connect a name to the high school counselor resource. Acknowledge the high school counselors’ role in helping students plan and pay for college.

