

My 411: Create an Account
8th Grade Career Development Advisement Activity #5
Teacher as Advisor Program (TAP)
Estimated time: 30-45 minutes

National Career Development Standard/Competency:

6. Skills to locate, evaluate, and interpret career information
 - Demonstrate use of a range of resources
9. Skills to make decisions
 - Identify and complete required steps toward transition from high school to entry into postsecondary education/training programs for work
 - Identify steps to apply for and secure financial assistance for postsecondary education and training
12. Skills in career planning
 - Describe school and community resources to explore educational and occupational choices
 - Demonstrate skills necessary to compare education and job opportunities

Goal:

Students will identify steps and information to create an account on GAcollge411.org

Objectives:

- Distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate information to enter into an online account with GAcollge411
- Identify the advantages of creating an account
- Identify steps to create an account using accurate and appropriate information

Materials:

- Computer with Internet access
- Projector

Activity:

1. *Greet students as they enter the room.*
2. *Tell students that they will be learning about creating an account on GAcollge411. Ask students if anyone has already created an account or has visited the site. Allow students to share the benefits they've found from using the Web site.*
3. *Explain the value of using GAcollge411 as a tool to help plan, apply, and pay for college. Creating a free and secure account on the site will allow students to track and manage their:*
 - a. *Courses and grades*
 - b. *Extracurricular activities*
 - c. *Honors and awards*
 - d. *Test preparation programs*
 - e. *SAT, ACT, and other test scores*
 - f. *Career explorations*
 - g. *College searches*

4. Go to www.GAcollge411.org.
 - a. Click on **Create an Account**; you will be taken to Screen 1 of 3.
 - b. As a class, complete information for a fictitious student. Caution students that when they are creating their own accounts, it is very important to enter accurate information. The information in their accounts will be used to apply for college admissions and financial aid. If they enter accurate information at the time they create their accounts, they will not have to go back and correct it later. Also, encourage students to use an appropriate username and email address. Students will have the option to apply online using their accounts; they don't want to send a college application with an offensive or inappropriate username or email address.

Recommend a username “formula” for students at your school. For example: last name, first initial, graduation year (abbotr2010). Using a school formula ensures an appropriate username and allows for easy recovery of a forgotten username.

Students are free to use GAcollge411 email if their email addresses are not appropriate for communication with high school and college officials. Some students choose to set up a GAcollge411 email to use only for communication pertaining to college and career planning.

- c. When Screen 1 is complete, click **Next**.
- d. Complete the information required on Screen 2. Read aloud “**Student Loan and Financial Aid Information**”. Screen 2 asks students to enter their counselor’s name and email address. Students may also invite an advisor, teacher, or parent to gain read-only access to the account. Click on “**How does this work?**” for more information.
- e. Screen 3 asks what the student would like to do next. Students are strongly encouraged to “**Complete a profile for scholarship search and college recruitment**”.
- f. Many of the fields in the Profile will already be filled with information entered previously. By entering the Social Security number, a student will be able to apply for certain scholarships, loans, and grants. Remind students to keep their passwords private because of the sensitive nature of the information in their accounts.
- g. Encourage students to create their own accounts during their free time. Once an account is created, the student is able to save results from career inventories, record grades and extracurricular activities into the high school planner, use the test prep program, apply for college admissions and financial aid, and save other important information.
- h. Remind students to update their accounts at least once each year, revising the grade level and any other information that has changed.

Evaluation:

Evaluation is based on class participation.

Modifications:

If a computer lab is available, allow students to create their own accounts after an explanation and demonstration is given.