

Are you ready For High School?

Grades: 8
Time: 10-15 min

Background Information

This activity helps students learn more about high school by interviewing adults in their lives. By listening to the answers and stories from adults it helps students contextualize high school options and begin thinking about their time in high school.

Procedure:

Step 1: Explain that today students are going to learn about high school by interviewing one or more adults.

Step 2: Instruct students to select one or more adults to interview and distribute the interview questionnaire. Optional: review questions with students before they start interviewing.

Step 3: Students conduct the interviews.

Optional:

- The Facilitator Notes Page includes additional tips for modifying this mini lesson to meet the needs of your students.



Are you ready for high school?

You aren't the first to be asked this hugely important question. Find out how your teachers, parents, or other adults got to where they are today by completing this interview activity.

Interview Questionnaire

Student Name:

Date:

Part 1- Who are you interviewing?

Select one or more adults to interview. It can be a teacher, counselor, ASPIRE mentor, parent, grandparent, or another adult in your life. Remember interviews can be in-person, over the phone, or through facetime/zoom/ video calling.

Name of the person you are interviewing:

How do you know them (select from the following)

Teacher

Counselor

ASPIRE mentor

Parent

Grandparent

Other adult in your life

Part 2- Fact Finding Questions

These questions can help you learn about adults when they were closer to your age. Ask one or more of the following questions:

Q1- What high school did you attend?

Notes:

Q2- What was your favorite class in high school? Why?

Notes:

Q3- What activities did you participate in as a freshman – sports, leadership, music, clubs, or something else?

Notes:

Q4- Did your interests and activities change during high school?

Notes:

Q5- If you had questions about high school who did you talk to?

Notes:

Interview Questionnaire Continue

Part 3- Career Questions

These questions can help you learn more about people's career journey. Ask one or more of the following questions.

Q6- What was your first job? Was it paid or unpaid?

Notes:

Q7- Did you work during the summer or during the school year?

Notes:

Q8- What did you learn about yourself during your high school jobs?

Notes:

Step 4- Advice Question

These questions allow your interviewee to offer you some advice. Please ask both questions.

Q9- What is your best advice for me as I go into high school?

Notes:

Q10- If I have questions about high school who do you think I should talk to?

Notes:

Facilitator Notes

Overview:

The “Are you ready for high school?” interview activity helps students learn about high school by learning how adults in their lives felt about high school. This activity helps build and develop a career and college going culture by highlighting the real-world journeys that known adults pursued.

Extension Ideas:

This activity is designed to be a conversation starter between students and adults that helps create a career and college going culture. This activity can be modified in several ways to meet the needs of your educational community, here are some suggestions.

- **I Went To...:** Have school building staff complete the I Went To... activity and post at least one of their responses outside their classroom/office or in common area in the school. Once complete have students tour the school and read the responses, next have students select at least one or two staff members that had different postsecondary pathways to interview.
- **Podcast:** Students can use these questions as the basis for a podcast about the high school experiences people have.
- **Comic Futures:** After a student completes an interview have them create a comic strip highlighting some of the high school experiences the adult participated in. Continue the comic strip by creating career for the adult they interviewed.
- **Real/Fake:** In this modification students will interview someone real and write out answers a fictional character (someone from a book, TV, YouTube, or movie) might have to some of the questions. Once both interviews are complete, they can compare and contrast the answers.
- **Young Alumni Panel:** Invite a panel of alumni to your school to talk about their experiences in high school
 - This can be done as a “Talk Show” with a facilitated conversation on stage or as a “speed dating” event where students get a short amount of time to talk with each alumni
- **Hobby Interview:** Modify the interview questions so that students are interviewing an adult about a hobby and how they pursued that hobby during high school. For example, interview someone who played sports in high school or have students interview someone who participated in theatre.
- **Options Beyond High School:** Schedule an Options Beyond High School presentation from OSAC and use this activity as a follow-up activity. You can watch the video version of the presentation on our YouTube Page by scanning the QR code.

