

LESSON PLAN

How to Save on Tuition

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INCLUDED IN THIS PACKAGE

- **LESSON PLAN** (2 pages)
- **ACTIVITY** (4 pages)
- **QUIZ** (1 page)
- **ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY** (2 pages)
- **QUIZ ANSWER KEY** (1 page)

COLLECT FROM YOUR LIBRARY

- **VIDEO 38** (*How to Save on Tuition*)
- **HANDOUT 38** (*How to Save on Tuition*)
- **PRESENTATION 38** (*How to Save on Tuition*)

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LESSON PLAN

How to Save on Tuition

GRADES

7 to 12

TIME

45 minutes



OVERVIEW

This lesson equips students with strategies to minimize tuition costs for post-secondary education. By focusing on “free money” (grants, awards, scholarships), “your money” (work-study, savings) and “borrowed money” (student loans), students will learn to create a personalized, cost-effective tuition plan.

GOALS

- Help students understand the types and sources of tuition funding
- Support students in exploring practical ways to make post-secondary education more affordable

OBJECTIVES

- Identify three categories of tuition funding: free money, your money and borrowed money
- List and describe sources of financial aid: grants, awards, scholarships and student loans
- Evaluate strategies for minimizing education costs

ASSESSMENT

Use the activity in this lesson plan to assess students' grasp of the topic. An optional quiz is also provided (the quiz is not factored into the lesson's 45-minute runtime).

Did you know?

Each year, an estimated \$46 billion is awarded in grants and scholarship money.

MATERIALS

- ☐ **VIDEO 38**—How to Save on Tuition
- ☐ **HANDOUT 38**—How to Save on Tuition
- ☐ **PRESENTATION 38**—How to Save on Tuition
- ☐ **ACTIVITY**—Save or Spend Match and Answer Key
- ☐ **QUIZ**—How to Save on Tuition and Answer Key

PREPARATION

- Gather digital materials (video and presentation)
- Print **HANDOUT 38** for each student
- Print and cut out the **ACTIVITY** cards
- Create a chart on the board before class. Draw three columns and title them “FREE MONEY,” “YOUR MONEY” and “BORROWED MONEY”
- (Optional) Print **QUIZ** (How to Save on Tuition) for each student

How to Save on Tuition

- 5 minutes** Group brainstorm
- 5 minutes** Show **VIDEO 38** (*How to Save on Tuition*)
- 10 minutes** Go over **PRESENTATION 38**
- 20 minutes** Facilitate the **ACTIVITY**
- 5 minutes** Wrap up and distribute **HANDOUT 38**
- (Optional)** Assessment: **QUIZ** (*How to Save on Tuition*)

- After 10 minutes, bring the class back together and invite pairs to share their matched behaviors and the insights they discussed
 - Encourage students to reflect on the strategies they learned and share which ones they could see themselves using in their own plans for post-secondary education
5. Wrap up by highlighting the importance of prioritizing free money, using personal funds wisely and borrowing responsibly
 6. Distribute **HANDOUT 38** to help students organize their search for financial aid
 7. (Optional) Distribute **QUIZ** for individual assessment, or answer the questions together as a class; decide whether or not students can reference their notes/handouts during the quiz

1. Begin with a quick brainstorm:
 - Ask students to share different ways to help pay for school
 - Record their ideas on the board, grouping them into broad categories (“*FREE MONEY*,” “*YOUR MONEY*” and “*BORROWED MONEY*”)
2. Show **VIDEO 38** and encourage students to listen for any new ideas not mentioned during the brainstorm
3. Go over **PRESENTATION 38** to expand on the strategies mentioned in the video
4. Facilitate the **ACTIVITY**
 - Distribute one behavior card to each student
 - Students will move around the room to find the card that pairs with theirs; each saving behavior has a corresponding spending behavior
 - Use the Answer Key to verify matched pairs as students form them
 - Once paired, students will analyze their matched cards and discuss which behavior is more cost-effective

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. A vertical red margin line runs down the left side of the page. The paper is oriented vertically and appears to be a standard notebook or worksheet template.



ACTIVITY

How to Save on Tuition

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SAVE OR SPEND MATCH

Directions: Cut out the cards, shuffle them well and distribute them to students. Instruct students to find the 'save more' or 'spend more' behavior that pairs with their own.

I started at a community college for basic courses and then transferred to my more expensive first-choice school to finish my degree

I went straight to my more expensive first-choice school and took all courses there, including the basic ones

I skipped a course by challenging for credits (passing a test on material I already knew)

I took a course on material I already knew instead of challenging for credits

I researched lots of scholarships, grants and awards and applied to every single one I qualified for

I researched lots of scholarships, grants and awards, but I didn't think I had a chance of receiving one, so I didn't apply

I found an amazing scholarship, gathered everything I needed right away and sent in my application before the deadline

I found an amazing scholarship, but I waited too long to start my application and missed the deadline



ACTIVITY

How to Save on Tuition

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SAVE OR SPEND MATCH

Directions: Cut out the cards, shuffle them well and distribute them to students. Instruct students to find the 'save more' or 'spend more' behavior that pairs with their own.

I applied for grants and awards with the mindset that every bit of funding helps	I chose not to apply for grants and awards; the amount of money didn't seem worth the effort
I applied for grants, awards and scholarships before starting school, and kept track of deadlines to apply for new opportunities every year	I applied for grants, awards and scholarships before starting school, but didn't follow up on more opportunities after enrolling
I took a part-time job to help pay for school while still leaving time to study	I decided not to get a part-time job so I could focus on studying; I'll pay for school after graduation
I had lots of extra expenses for school, so I enrolled in a work-study program to reduce debt	I had lots of extra expenses for school, but decided to deal with debt later when I start working



ACTIVITY

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SAVE OR SPEND MATCH

Directions: Cut out the cards, shuffle them well and distribute them to students. Instruct students to find the 'save more' or 'spend more' behavior that pairs with their own.

I accepted a student loan offer and borrowed the minimum needed to cover remaining tuition and fees	I accepted a student loan offer and borrowed the maximum amount to have extra money for school
I talked to my school counselor and researched student loans to find the best option for me	I didn't research student loan options and just went with the first one I found
I found out my employer offers funding for employee education, so I followed up and got the process started	I found out my employer offers funding for employee education, but I didn't bring it up because I didn't want to bother my manager
I participated in a local service club and applied for the education funding they offer	I participated in a local service club but didn't check whether they offered any education funding



ACTIVITY

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SAVE OR SPEND MATCH

Directions: Cut out the cards, shuffle them well and distribute them to students. Instruct students to find the 'save more' or 'spend more' behavior that pairs with their own.

I worked with my parents to find and apply for scholarships and grants available through their jobs

I didn't ask my parents about scholarships or grants from their employers because I figured it wouldn't be worth the effort

I looked into my school's tuition installment plan and split up my payments to make them more manageable

I didn't explore tuition installment plans and paid my tuition in one lump sum, which left me short on money for other expenses

I bought used textbooks online and borrowed others from the library to save money on course materials

I bought all new textbooks from the campus store because it felt easier than looking for cheaper options

I tutored other students and worked as a teacher's assistant to earn extra money for school

I didn't know there were tutoring or on-campus job opportunities available, so I didn't look into it



QUIZ

How to Save on Tuition

NAME: _____

TOTAL
/ 7 pts

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Directions: CIRCLE the best possible answer to each question.

1. Which of the following is the best way to reduce tuition costs?
 - a. Borrow the maximum amount of student loans available
 - b. Apply for scholarships, grants and awards
 - c. Delay paying tuition until after graduation
 - d. Only take classes at your first-choice school
2. Why do many students start at a community college?
 - a. They can skip basic classes
 - b. It makes earning a degree less expensive
 - c. It helps them graduate faster
 - d. They get scholarships automatically
3. What is the recommended order for paying for your education?
 - a. Free money first, then your money, then borrowed money
 - b. Your money first, then borrowed money, then free money
 - c. Borrowed money first, then free money, then your money
 - d. Your money first, then free money, then borrowed money
4. Which of the following can be sources of education funding?
 - a. Your employer
 - b. Your parents' employer
 - c. Local service clubs or organizations
 - d. All of the above

/4 pts

TRUE OR FALSE

Directions: CIRCLE either true or false.

5. TRUE or FALSE Scholarships are only for sports stars and amazing students.
6. TRUE or FALSE Challenging for credits lets you test out of a class and save on tuition costs.
7. TRUE or FALSE Borrowing the most student loan money is the smartest way to pay for school.

/3 pts

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ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY

How to Save on Tuition

SAVE OR SPEND MATCH

Directions: Match each pair of behaviors by identifying which reflects a ‘save more’ mindset and which reflects a ‘spend more’ mindset. Use this key to check your answers.

SAVE MORE	SPEND MORE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I started at a community college for basic courses and then transferred to my more expensive first-choice school to finish my degree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I went straight to my more expensive first-choice school and took all courses there, including the basic ones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I skipped a course by challenging for credits (passing a test on material I already knew) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I took a course on material I already knew instead of challenging for credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I researched lots of scholarships, grants and awards and applied to every single one I qualified for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I researched lots of scholarships, grants and awards, but I didn't think I had a chance of receiving one, so I didn't apply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found an amazing scholarship, gathered everything I needed right away and sent in my application before the deadline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found an amazing scholarship, but I waited too long to start my application and missed the deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I applied for grants and awards with the mindset that every bit of funding helps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I chose not to apply for grants and awards; the amount of money didn't seem worth the effort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I applied for grants, awards and scholarships before starting school and kept track of deadlines to apply for new opportunities every year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I applied for grants, awards and scholarships before starting school, but didn't follow up on more opportunities after enrolling
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had lots of extra expenses for school, so I enrolled in a work-study program to reduce debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had lots of extra expenses for school, but decided to deal with debt later when I start working

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found out my employer offers funding for employee education, so I followed up and got the process started 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found out my employer offers funding for employee education, but I didn’t bring it up because I didn’t want to bother my manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I participated in a local service club and applied for the education funding they offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I participated in a local service club but didn’t check whether they offered any education funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I worked with my parents to find and apply for scholarships and grants available through their jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I didn’t ask my parents about scholarships or grants from their employers because I figured it wouldn’t be worth the effort
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QUIZ ANSWER KEY

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