Lesson Plan 4: Preparing for Standardized Testing (PSAT)

Core www.cfnc.org Area:
Post Secondary Planning

Total Time:
45-60 minutes

Target Grades:
10th grade

Suggested Timeline:
Fall Semester

ASCA Correlation
(Which of the ASCA Standards does this lesson address?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A-A</th>
<th>A-B</th>
<th>A-C</th>
<th>C-A</th>
<th>C-B</th>
<th>C-C</th>
<th>PS-A</th>
<th>PS-B</th>
<th>PS-C</th>
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National Career Development Standards:

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<tr>
<th>ED1</th>
<th>ED2</th>
<th>CM1</th>
<th>CM2</th>
<th>CM3</th>
<th>CM4</th>
<th>CM5</th>
<th>PS1</th>
<th>PS2</th>
<th>PS3</th>
<th>PS4</th>
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Lesson Objectives

- By the end of the lesson, students will have completed tutorials for SAT & ACT and Vocabulary Builder.

Materials Needed

Computer lab or computer cart
List of Quick Tips

Advance Preparation

Reserve computer lab or computer cart

Activator (Typically 5-10 minutes)

Discuss the importance of post-secondary exploration and planning:

- Plan for post-secondary options.
- Choosing post-secondary studies or an internship according to your vocational identity and career interests.
- Learning the skills necessary to prepare for post-secondary opportunities.
- Make informed choices regarding course selection.
- Relate students’ experiences of previous post-secondary exploration in www.cfnc.org

www.cfnc.org will:

- Show students tools and resources that are appropriate to explore post-secondary options.
- Save student work so the student can return and later complete exercises.
- Provide students with a lifelong portfolio to help with future post-secondary and career
www.cfnc.org
- Make suggestions based on previous student’s work.
### Core Learning Strategies/Lesson Activities (Typically 30-40 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session #</th>
<th>Step #</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Action Steps</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>School counselors</td>
<td>• Introduce the importance of post-secondary planning and exploration, the importance of proper test preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>School Counselors &amp; Students</td>
<td>• Focus on today’s work</td>
<td>Using <a href="http://www.cfnc.org">www.cfnc.org</a> to continue or begin post-secondary exploration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Student signs into account; then College Planning, then Test Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>• Describe the importance of understanding the college planning process and the benefits of taking the test prep.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>• Enter the Test Prep section</td>
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<td>• Click on tutorials for SAT &amp; ACT and Vocabulary Builder</td>
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<td>• Start with the area of your choice. For Example, go to SAT, click on try a brief demonstration, click on try it out, and you will be prompted to take a sample of 10 questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>• Other useful tools are: word/question of the day, and vocabulary builder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>• Suggest to students to register for the question &amp; word of the day</td>
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<td>• Hand out the list of quick tips</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Review the worksheet when completing the course selection for the upcoming school year</td>
<td></td>
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### Summarizer/Informal Assessment (Typically 5-10 minutes)

Students will:
- Write a Reflection in www.cfnc.org about your Test Prep section
- Share with peers your results

### Follow-Up

- Internship or volunteer experience for students during summer
- Examine the Program of Studies for possible courses that would enhance your post-secondary path.
PSAT Quick Tips

A brief review of the test format:

**Critical Reading:** 2 sections – Sentence completion and Passage-based reading

**Math:** 2 sections- Multiple choice and Student-produced response questions (fill-in the answer)

**Writing Skills:** 1 section-includes Improving sentences, Identifying sentence errors, and Improving paragraphs

**Scoring:**
- Correct answer? You earn 1 point!
- Leave it blank?  Zero points
- Guess and get a multiple choice question wrong? Lose a quarter (1/4) point.
- Guess and get a “fill-in the answer” math question wrong? No loss, no gain of points.

**Guessing:** If you can eliminate 3 of the 5 possible multiple-choice answers, you have a shot at earning 1 point. If you have no idea, move on to the next question and return later if you have the time.

**Marking answers:** You must fill in the bubble or write in the answer in the fill-in the answer math section to receive any points. Any work in the test booklet earns you zero points. Erase wrong answers completely on your answer sheet before filling in the oval with your correct answer.

**Checking answers:** Use all your time in each section to check your work and/or return to those questions you passed on earlier. You cannot return to a previous section.

**What should I bring to the test?**

- A good night’s sleep from the night before
- A healthy breakfast that morning
- Two sharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Calculator
- E-mail address (if you want info from colleges sent to you via your e-mail)
- A positive attitude to do the best you can

**Preparing for the sections of the PSAT:**

**Critical Reading**
- Become familiar with the directions and the type of questions.
- Ask your English teacher for some tips.

**Math section**
- Remember that the test may cover some Geometry and Algebra II topics you haven’t covered in math class yet.
- Remember that one section of the test will ask you to fill in the answer. Review the directions for this section before the test.
- Ask your Math teacher for some tips
- Review what you do know and do your best
Writing section
  Ask your teachers for some reminders of what you already know from your writing assignments in all your classes.

When will I get my scores back? In early to mid December, the school counselors will schedule an assembly to return your test booklet, along with your PSAT Score Report Plus. Your score report will provide you with your scores on each section, correct answers and tips on how to do better in all your classes.

  Bring your positive attitude on test day and do the best you can.

(“PSAT Quick Tips” modified from materials from the South Kingstown High School Guidance Department, 2006)