

ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND FAILURE



Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Principle:

- Students will complete school with the academic rigor and preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial postsecondary options, including college.
- Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home and in the community.

Objectives (Students will...):

- Understand and demonstrate the importance of achieving individual potential.
- Identify barriers to personal academic success.
- Understand the relationship between classroom performance, effort, and success in school.

GOAL: Students will understand the causes of both academic success and failure.

Activity Statements:

Students will discuss what factors impede their academic progress.

Materials:

1. Paper and pencil
2. Chalkboard and chalk
3. Handout 1 -- "Eleven Reasons for Failure in Schools"
"Eleven Steps to Achieving Motivation"
4. Handout 2 -- "10 Tips for Talking to Teachers"

Procedures:

1. Open the session by asking students the following discussion questions:
 - a) Why do students fail?
 - b) Why are students able to pass?
 - c) What can teachers do to help students pass?
2. Pass out the first handout on "Eleven Reasons for Failure in School" and "Eleven Steps to Achieving Motivation." Break students into groups of three's and allow them to discuss what this handout outlines. Ask them to identify where they see themselves on the lists.
3. Encourage some students to share their insights.

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4. Hand out the "10 Tips for Talking to Teachers." If time allows, review these important suggestions with the students. Use the following discussion questions to encourage student participation.

Discussion:

1. What is the hardest thing about talking to a teacher?
2. What can you take from these suggestions to help you improve in school?

Integrative Closing Statement:

Many students feel frustrated when they do not do well in school. The goal of this session is to address factors that lead to academic success and failure. Give students a chance to read the list and think about their own situations. Be encouraging and supportive.

Additional Resources: <http://www.thinkfinity.org/StudentHome.aspx>

Extension Activities: Use skills learned in this lesson and talk to teachers in classes where you have academic concerns.
