

## GEAR UP ACTIVITY IDEA

# ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE



### Objective

To motivate students to develop a roadmap for achieving their future goals and to inform parents about testing and how they can support their children's success.

### Procedure

1. **Invite participants:** Invite all 7th- to 12th-graders along with their families to join the activity.
2. **Start with dinner:** Kick off the event with a 45-minute dinner.
3. **Present the topic:** Introduce the idea of planning for the future to both students and parents.
4. **Split the groups:** Separate parents and students for more focused discussions.
5. **Talk about education and income:** Explain how different education levels can affect income.
6. **Discuss long-term goals:** Have a 15-minute discussion about long-term goals, encouraging students to think 10 to 15 years ahead.
7. **Set goals:** Ask students to write down their long-term goals on a poster board.
8. **Map today to the future:** Have students place "Today" on one side of the poster and draw a road connecting "Today" to their goal.
9. **Research steps:** Give students about 20 minutes to look up what they need to do to reach their goals.
10. **Create Roadmaps:** Encourage creativity as students make their roadmaps. Posters should be colorful and include drawings that outline the steps students need to take from middle school through high school and possibly college.
11. **Group photo and sharing:** After completing the posters, take a group photo of all the students and share their posters with the school community and parents.
12. **What students learned:** Students learned about the decisions they'll need to make to achieve their goals. Many people recognized the importance of grades and test scores for college and career opportunities.
13. **What worked well:** Providing Panda Express for dinner was a hit! Having a separate area for parents to ask about testing was helpful. Students enjoyed working together to create posters and talking about their futures, with many siblings joining in.

### Themes

College & Career Exploration, Counseling & Advising, Family Event

### Audience

All GU students

### Grade Level(s)

7-12

### Cost

\$20 for supplies and \$240 for food.

### Required Materials

Poster boards, pens, computer access, pencils, and patience.

### Prep Time

2 hours

### Additional Notes

Contributed by Mansfield MS/HS