

Arkansas

NEXT

a guide to life after high school

THE
**LEADERSHIP
ISSUE**

THE **NEXT**
GENERATION
OF LEADERS IN
ARKANSAS

Meet 11 young Arkansans who are climbing the ladder, making moves, winning big and leaving a lasting impact.

**HOW TO FIND
FINANCIAL AID**

(And how to make the money last!)

**EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO DO BEFORE
YOU GRADUATE**

MEET
**AYANA
GRAY**

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR
AND NETFLIX
PRODUCER

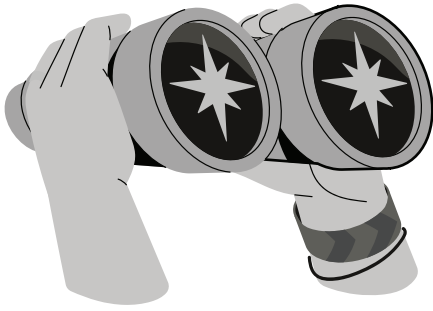
THE HUNT BEGINS
**BEASTS
OF PREY**

ABPG
ARKANSAS BUSINESS
PUBLISHING GROUP
2023-2024 | FREE

2023-2024

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

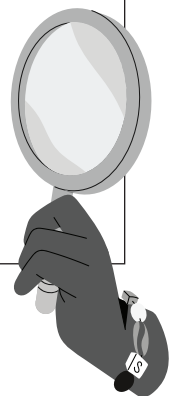
Created for Teachers & Counselors



The Ultimate Higher Ed **SCAVENGER HUNT**

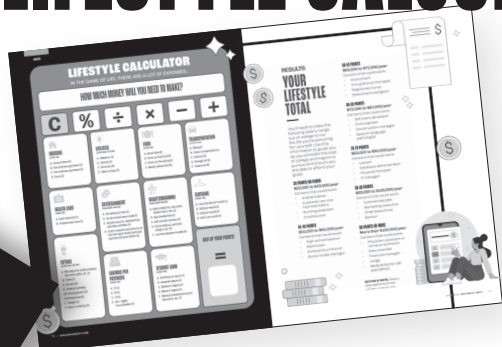
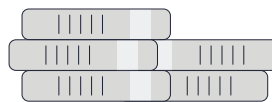
Complete the hunt individually or in small groups.
Your teacher may assign a time limit for added fun.

1. When it comes to higher education options after high school, list an option that is considered “quickest,” as well as one considered “average” and “long.”
2. What is the average length of an NFL player’s career?
3. What is the name of the foundation started by Arkansas-native, NBA basketball player, Moses Moody?
4. What is a great degree to pursue if you love sports?
5. What is one reason a transfer degree might be right for you?
6. Name one perk and one pitfall of student loans.
7. When is the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) deadline for 2024?
8. In two to three sentences, describe what students need to do during steps two and five of the college admissions process.
9. What does “early decision” mean as it relates to the college admissions process?
10. List one thing you should do each of the following school years—eighth, ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th grades—as you prepare for graduation and college.
11. What is a “super score?”
12. What are the five different types of scholarships?
13. List three ways you can stretch your scholarships (help them cover more of your tuition and college expenses).
14. Use the lifestyle calculator. Record your salary range result.
15. Using your lifestyle calculator result from above, choose three “Careers Across Arkansas” with a median annual wage that falls within that same range.
16. Which “Hot 45” occupation are you most interested in?
17. What elements are required on a cover letter for a job application?
18. List one career resource available to Arkansans with disabilities or learning differences.
19. What job interview tips do you find most helpful?
20. Find “The Next Level” section and list the four main higher education paths featured. Bonus: Find a fifth option somewhere in the magazine.
21. Fill out the survey card in the back of this magazine and turn it in with this assignment to your teacher or guidance counselor.



PLAY THE GAME

LIFESTYLE CALCULATOR



Take the lifestyle calculator quiz on page 72. Using the results on page 73, find the salary and careers that match your total points. Write down your results. Next, choose one or more occupations you might consider in order to earn this salary (from the “Careers Across Arkansas” resource on pages 74-83. In one to two paragraphs, share what you think about your results. Questions to consider:

- ◆ Did the cost of your dream lifestyle surprise you?
- ◆ Why did you pick that occupation?
- ◆ What lifestyle do you picture for yourself 10 years from now?
- ◆ Will that occupation get you to that 10-year plan?
- ◆ Now that you see what it takes to pay for your dream lifestyle, are you willing to sacrifice any luxuries? Or are you motivated to work even harder to make sure you earn enough?



Discuss the results as a class.

POP QUIZ! Keywords Search

Give your students a set amount of time to read the stories on pages 61 and 66. When time is up, announce an ungraded pop quiz. Did they catch the important vocabulary they’ll need to know as they approach college during their reading? Time to find out. Ask them to define these key terms in their own words:

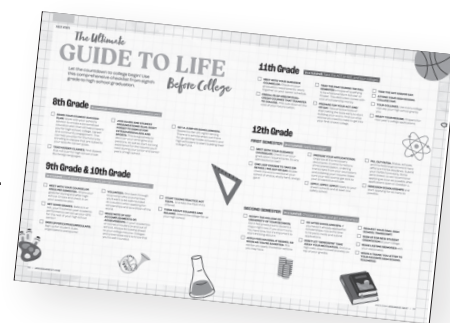
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Rolling admission | 4. FAFSA | 7. Loan deferment |
| 2. Open admission | 5. Eligibility | 8. PLUS loans |
| 3. Early decision | 6. Grants | 9. Work study |

Allow them to self-grade as you explain each word and what it means. Informally discuss the following as a class: How did they do? Did anyone get them all right? Do they feel they learned something new that will be important to them?

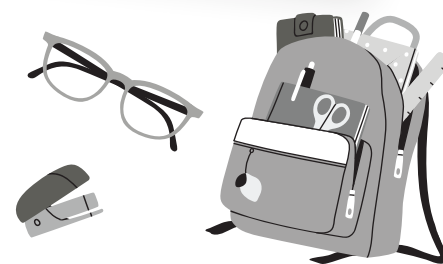
HIGH SCHOOL TO-DO LIST



Send your students to the “Guide to Life Before College” on pages 58-59. Ask them to review the to-do list for each grade level. No matter if they’re in eighth grade or a senior, ask students to find one thing they started or completed and one thing they have not done but need to do soon. Discuss their answers informally as a class; use this time to suggest to-dos and motivate them to stay on track for graduation (no matter how far off!).



EXTRA CREDIT: Ask students if they have seen their guidance counselor recently and suggest that those who haven’t schedule a visit soon.



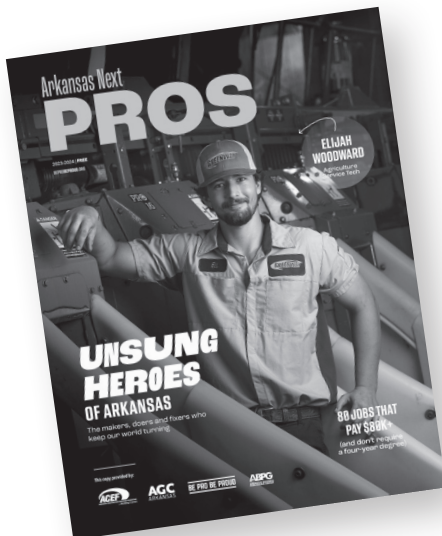
WHAT BEING A LEADER MEANS TO ME

Create a Leadership Mood Board



Utilizing the free design tools on [canva.com](https://www.canva.com) or the Canva app, ask students to create a leadership mood board. Inspired by our cover story about young Arkansas leaders, ask each student to create a one-page mood board with text and images of what it would look like for them to be a leader. Ask students to define what it means to be a leader, what leadership-oriented career they might pursue, and how can they lead and inspire others in that role.

Encourage students to be creative and have fun with this project. Have each student present and explain their mood board to the class; display the pages on a large screen or print them out for all to appreciate.



EXPLORE *ARKANSAS NEXT: PROS*

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Ask students to read the feature story about AI inside *PROS* and share their answers to the following:

1. Are you worried about AI impacting your future career? Why or why not?
2. List one thing you were surprised to learn uses AI.
3. Have you already tried AI-powered tools for school or personal reasons? If so, how and why?
4. Will you consider learning how to use AI as you prefer for a career? Why or why not?

PEER REVIEW

Get into groups of four. Open the magazine to the *Arkansas NEXT: PROS* section. On a piece of paper, write down a technical profession that you think would fit each of the other three members of your group based on their personalities and what you know about them.

Take turns sharing which jobs you imagined for each other, and explain why you thought they'd like these paths.

Now rank the paths that your classmates imagined for you.



Scavenger Hunt ANSWER KEY

1. Answers will vary from pages 40-41.
2. 3.3 years
3. Motivate One
4. Answers will vary from page 52.
5. Answers will vary from page 46.
6. Answers will vary from page 67.
7. June 30, 2024
8. Answers will vary from pages 61 and 62.
9. Answers will vary from page 63.
10. Answers will vary from pages 58-59.
11. Answers will vary from page 60.
12. Merit, need-based, minority, affiliation, and random (as found on page 68).
13. Answers will vary from page 69.
14. Answers will come from the game on pages 72-73.
15. Answers will vary from pages 74-83.
16. Answers will vary from page 88.
17. Contact information, date, salutation, opening paragraph, middle paragraph, and closing paragraph (as found on page 87).
18. Answers will vary from page 26.
19. Answers will vary from page 87.
20. Bachelor's (four-year), associate (two-year), transfer and graduate degrees; bonus for listing certificates, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training from Arkansas NEXT: PROS.
21. Collect completed surveys from students.