

Seniors
May 10, 2016

Objective: Students consider some ways to avoid the senior slump while still enjoying their senior year.

Resources Needed for this Activity:

- None

Assignment(s):

Assignment	Standard(s)	Points	Assigned	Due
Alternatives to the Slump	CS.PM.04 Maintain regular attendance and be on time. CS.PM.05 Maintain appropriate interactions with colleagues.	5	5/10/16	5/10/16

Opening: 10 minutes - The advisor begins the session by asking students to work with a partner to brainstorm things that some students do to enjoy the end of their senior year. In some cases, they have been waiting to do these things for a very long time. The advisor may want to encourage students to include things such as a senior trip or prom or graduation along with things such as “take easier classes.”

Activity: 15 minutes - After giving students some time to work with a partner to make a list of things that students do during their senior years of high school, the advisor asks groups to share their answers with the full group and should write those answers on the board.

The advisor then asks the group to look at the list on the board and ask which of the things could harm a student’s readiness for postsecondary education and which of the things would not.

As students suggest items that could undermine students’ readiness for postsecondary education, the advisor should circle those items.

The advisor then asks students to see if they can suggest something that students could replace the circled items with that would still make senior year fun and special but wouldn’t harm readiness for postsecondary education. For example, when they were selecting 11th grade classes the advisor suggested taking a class that uses math skills instead of a traditional math class if the student really doesn’t want to take math the senior year. That will help to keep the student’s math skills sharp for college but will still make it possible to have a change of pace during senior year.

The advisor returns to the suggestions that seniors had in the conclusion of last session, the examples that they cited as “senior slump behavior.” Either write or project these behaviors on the board. From the student generated list and the list they have just now generated in class, ask the students, which are the top three behaviors that they would warn an 11th grader about now. The advisor should circle those and place a star next to them and explain to the students that the staff at this school regularly provides feedback to the school’s leadership team about Ramp-Up and college readiness in general and that their feedback will be shared with the Ramp-Up coordinator so that their ideas can be incorporated in the future.

Closure: 2 minutes –The advisor concludes by reminding students of the (hopefully) exciting and really important plans they have developed for postsecondary education and how hard they have worked to get ready for those plans. They should not reduce their chances of being truly ready to succeed in college just by taking off too early- just a few weeks left. Hang on!