Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

Talking with your family about paying for higher education

Financial aid – which may come in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study, or loans – can help pay for higher education.

You may be eligible for aid from both the federal government and non-federal sources. It's helpful to talk with a parent or guardian about all of your financial aid options so you can plan for higher education costs in a way that would be best for your family.

Instructions

1. Visit the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid website at https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types to learn about types of financial aid.
2. Click on each of the links to learn more about the financial aid options. It's helpful to understand that there are differences between federal and non-federal financial aid.
3. Be sure to explore all types of financial aid, including grants, loans, scholarships, and Federal Work-Study.
4. Complete the table below for each financial aid option.
5. Use these notes to have a discussion with a parent or guardian who has an interest in your goals after high school. Plan for the conversation, so you're as ready as possible

Grants

Description	
Examples	
Am I eligible for this option?	
How do I apply for this option?	
Will I need to pay this back?	

Loans

Description	
Examples	
Am I eligible for this option?	
How do I apply for this option?	
Will I need to pay this back?	

Federal Work-Study

Description	
Examples	
Am I eligible for this option?	
How do I apply for this option?	
Will I need to pay this back?	

Scholarships

Description	
Examples	
Am I eligible for this option?	
How do I apply for this option?	
Will I need to pay this back?	

Reflection question

The federal government is not the only source of financial aid. On https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types, you'll find three other sources of financial aid: state governments, the college or career school you apply to, and nonprofit and private organizations.

Choose a source that might apply to your situation and describe how you might research financial aid options from that source.

Planning your conversation

Now that you have some information to share, it's time to plan your conversation.

1. Whom will you have this conversation with? _____
2. When will you have the conversation? _____
3. Why are you having this conversation? What are different ways higher education could help you reach your goals?
4. What questions and concerns might the person you're talking with have about your attending an education or training program after high school?
5. What might you share in response?

To apply for federal student aid, you or your parents or guardians must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The FAFSA gives you access to federal grants and loans, the largest source of financial aid for post-secondary education. The form costs nothing to complete and submit. It must be completed before the start of each academic year that you're enrolled in a post-secondary program. To learn more about the FAFSA, see the "All about FAFSA" handout at https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_building_block_activities_all-about-FAFSA_handout.pdf or visit https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help.