Lesson 8: FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Objective:
Students will learn about the FAFSA form and will commit to completing it by the annual deadline.

Overview:
Students will explore three FAFSA-related websites to become familiar with the process of applying for student financial aid.

Lesson preparation:	Activity
Teacher and students will need access to the internet. Open the PowerPoint for Lesson 8. Print copies of the Lesson 8 pre-test and post-test. Go to http://aspirations.sparc37.com/ and click on the Finances link at the bottom. Find the links in the table labeled "FAFSA," "FAFSA 4caster," and "What you need for FAFSA." These are the links students will explore in this lesson.	Distribute copies of the pre-test, ask students to complete, and collect pre-tests. The pre-test will let students know what they should learn from this lesson. Review the PowerPoint with students. You may need to revisit slides as you conduct the lesson activities. Go to http://aspirations.sparc37.com/ and click on the Finances link at the bottom. Find the links in the table labeled "FAFSA," "FAFSA 4caster," and "What you need for FAFSA." These are the links students will explore in this lesson. NOTE: Students will not complete an actual FAFSA application during this lesson. Open the link labeled "FAFSA." and explore the dropdown menus at the top of the page. Be sure to study the section "Who Gets Aid," as there are special financial aid programs for students with specific qualifications and rules that may limit access to federal aid for some categories of students. Explore the dropdown menu labeled "FAFSA: Applying for Aid" and locate the FAFSA4caster to estimate eligibility for federal student aid. The FAFSA4caster can also be found at the link for FAFSA4caster on the Aspirations website. Open FAFSA4caster and answer the questions to estimate eligibility for federal financial aid. NOTE: FAFSA4caster results are only an estimate. Completion of the actual FAFSA application is required to determine eligibility for federal financial aid. Open the link labeled "What You Need for FAFSA" and explore the website to obtain valuable information about completing the FAFSA application, including a checklist of documents that must be used to complete the FAFSA. Distribute copies of the post-test, ask students to complete, and collect post-tests. Compare pre- and post-test results.

Suggestions for Differentiation:	Discussion:
Google Chrome is the suggested browser if language translation is required. Simply right-click anywhere on the page and choose the "Translate" option. You may need to use the drop-down to select the preferred language.	Why is it important to complete the FAFSA application by the deadline? What can happen if you do not complete the FAFSA by the deadline or leave out required information? What is the key difference between a grant or scholarship and a student loan?