

Remembrance of Things Past: Stories and lessons from College

Goal

This exercise is similar to the “Top Ten Skills/Value of Degree” that is available for the beginning curriculum. However, while that exercise is prospective, this exercise is retrospective. The goal of this exercise is twofold: First, to help students realize the benefits of their university experience. Part of their success in careers will be based on effective self-marketing and having the confidence that their education provided a skill set that can be applicable in a variety of situations. Second, the exercise will help prepare them for interview questions regarding their education and give them a sense of how to frame their responses in a way that resonates with the characteristics that employers are seeking.

Requires: 45-60 minutes of class time and 30-40 minutes before class

1. Prior to Class

Ask students to think about the following:

- What achievement from your time in University are you most proud of?
- What has been the biggest challenge you have faced and how did you address it?
- Was there any class that really changed the way you looked at the world or your future career?

2. Group Work in Class (20 min)

- Ask the students to share their experiences with you or another student, taking notes on the board.
- Group the responses if possible.

3. Application to Careers (20-30 minutes)

- Share with the students “The Top 10 Skills that Employers Want.”
- Discuss the way that one could frame the stories told as answers to questions on an application or during an interview.