

PLANNING MY NEXT STEPS

STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE

Three Post-High School Journeys: Scenarios



SCENARIO 1 - JAZZ'S JOURNEY

- Jazz wants to take a gap year after they graduate from high school.
- Their long-term goal is to go to law school and become a lawyer.
- Jazz would also love to purchase their own home before going to law school.
- Jazz wants to accomplish these goals within 10 years of graduating high school.
- Can they take a gap year, then go to college, purchase a home, and go to law school within 10 years?
 - If yes, how?
 - If no, what other approach could Jazz take to achieving these goals?
 - Map out Jazz's journey.



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SCENARIO 2 - LUKE'S JOURNEY

- Luke is excited about pursuing higher education after graduating from high school.
- Luke recently found out his girlfriend is expecting his baby. He wants to propose to her before the baby is born, then surprise her with a destination wedding in another country in 2 years.
- His long-term goal is to become a plumbing engineer within the next 5 years.
- Is this plan realistic?
 - If yes, how?
 - If no, what would your recommendations be for how Luke can achieve these goals?
 - Map out Luke's journey.



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SCENARIO 3 – IRIS'S JOURNEY

- Iris loves creating ice sculptures!
- She wants to be a professional ice sculptor in New York City.
- Iris currently lives in Montana and works at her family's cattle farm where she is expected to work extremely long hours, but this leaves her no time to practice her ice sculpting skills.
- She wants to move to New York City within the next year to focus on her art career.
- Can this move be done in the next year?
 - If yes, how?
 - If no, what would you recommend she do?
 - Map out Iris's journey.



Key Terms

Gap Year or Gap Semester [↗](#): The Gap Year Association defines this time as “a semester or year of [experiential learning](#) [↗](#), typically taken after high school and prior to career or postsecondary education, in order to deepen one’s practical, professional and personal awareness.” Some students choose to take a gap year in the middle of pursuing a degree.

Workforce [↗](#): The term “workforce” refers to the workers engaged in a specific activity or enterprise (e.g., “the factory’s workforce”) or the number of workers potentially assignable for any purpose (e.g., “the nation’s workforce”).

Community Colleges: These colleges offer 2-year programs leading to an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree. They also have technical and vocational programs with close links to secondary/high schools, community groups, and employers in the local community. You can usually find large community colleges with multiple campuses in an urban/suburban setting or small campuses in a rural setting.

Vocational Schools: Also known as trade schools, vocational schools prepare students to enter career fields that require specialized training. People who attend trade school can have careers as electricians, dental hygienists, veterinary technicians, plumbers, and more.

Certification [↗](#): A certification is a credential you earn to show you have specific skills or knowledge. Certifications are usually tied to an occupation, technology, or industry and are usually offered by a professional organization or a company that specializes in a particular field or technology.

Financial Literacy Resources

Resources from *We Think Twice*™

- [Planning Today for a Better Tomorrow Quiz](#)
- [My Money, My Future Quiz](#)
- [My Money Guide and Checklist](#)
- [Money Saving Hacks](#)

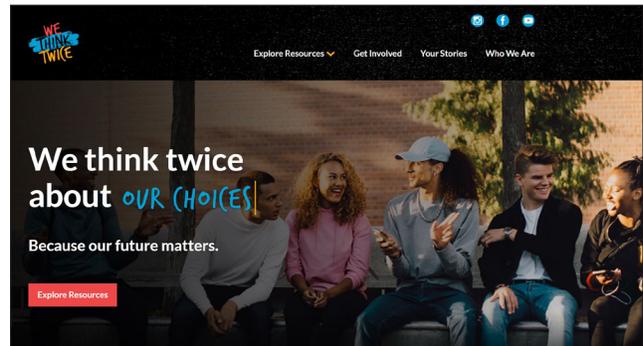
Other Resources

- [50/30/20 Rule](#) [↗](#) – Marquette Bank
- [Understanding Taxes Student Site](#) – IRS
- [Personal Finance FAQs](#) – Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- [Financial Resources and Activities](#) – MyCreditUnion.gov
- [Resources for Protecting and Managing Money](#) – Consumer.gov

Career Resource Guide

Resources from *We Think Twice*™

- [What Does Success Mean to You? Quiz](#)
- [Your Goals. Your Future.](#)
- [Goal Setting Planner](#)
- [Write a Winning Resume](#)
- [Interview Tips for Teens](#)
- [Find Your Mentors](#)
- [Resource Guide for a Safe & Positive Mentorship](#)
- [My Money Guide](#)



Other Resources

- [Career Planning for High Schoolers](#) – U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- [Guide to Career Planning for High School Students](#)  – Study.com
- [5 Ways to Find Career Ideas in High School](#)  – College Board
- [3 Ways to Use Mind Mapping to Design Your Career & Get Unstuck](#) 
- [Education and Career Toolkit](#) – Youth Engaged 4 Change
- [GetMyFuture](#)  – Career Resources, Department of Labor
- [YouthRules! Resources on Young Workers' Rights](#) – Department of Labor
- [Job Corps](#) – Career Training Program
- [Apprenticeship Opportunities](#) – ApprenticeshipUSA, Department of Labor
- [USAJOBS: Students and Recent Graduates](#) – United States Office of Personnel Management
- [USAJOBS: Native Americans](#) – United States Office of Personnel Management



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