



## MEET CHRIS:



Currently a junior in high school, Chris is involved in the National Honor Society, plays basketball, and volunteers as an EMT on the weekends. Additionally, Chris works after-school as a part-time server at a local

restaurant to help earn money for college and transportation. Chris is from a rural, close-knit, middle class family who take education seriously. Both of Chris's parents are educated with good paying jobs.

Currently, Chris is interested in pursuing a nursing career as it is a stable occupation with a lot of job opportunities. Chris has to figure out which post-secondary option will be the best fit. Chris realizes that this is a big decision, so options must be thoroughly explored.

Since elementary school, Chris has had the desire to be a nurse. Chris reads books and watches medical shows regularly, which has only increased interest in the field. Chris likes science (Advanced Bio & General Science), medicine and helping people which is what drove Chris to become a volunteer EMT.

The guidance counselor has given Chris a lot of information and suggested several venues for Chris to investigate before making a major decision. It's all very overwhelming and Chris is not sure what to do...at this point, taking a break even sounds good!

Directions: Your job is to help Chris out, by exploring the pros and cons of each option.

Before beginning, answer the following questions:

1. Based on the above information, what does Chris value (what's important)? Evidence?
2. What goals does Chris have based on the above information? Evidence?
3. What other information or circumstances need to be considered?



Pass out a deck of “OPTION” cards to each small group of students (2-4) with a specific action that could be taken.

**OPTION CARDS** (*see final page to printable cards*)

- Go through a CNA program to become a Certified Nursing Assistant
- Go to a two year nursing program at a vocational school (e.g., Geisinger School of Nursing) for LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse)
- Go to a two year college for nursing and earn an associates degree for LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse)
- Go to a four year college/university for nursing and earn a BS degree for RN (Registered Nurse)
- Go to a 5-6 year college/university for nursing/practitioner and earn a master's degree through an accelerated program for NP (Nursing Practitioner)
- Become a full time EMT
- Take a GAP year, continuing to work full time and volunteering
- Do nothing, live at home and sponge off of parents
- Drop out of school, become a drug dealer and join a gang.
- Join the military for a few years and then go to college on the GI Bill

Each individual/group is to think about the advantages and disadvantages of their given option, generate a list and be prepared to discuss it as a class. Other options can be discussed or added by students at this point.

After sharing advantages and disadvantages of each choice card, have them consider Chris’s values, goals, circumstances, etc.

- Discard any options that are unsafe or illegal (share which ones)
- Discard any that would be impossible in this situation or unrealistic (share which ones)
- Which options are realistically worth exploring? What information is needed to make an informed decision?
- If questions arise, who could be consulted?

Ask students to share the option believed to be the most consistent with Chris’s values, goals, etc. before complete the follow-up.



## **FOLLOW UP**

Let's say Chris implements the decision your group made which was.....

Where could this decision lead?

Could others be affected? Who? How?

How would Chris's life or career be affected?

How would Chris's parents view this choice?

What concerns may Chris have with this choice? Why?

How realistic is this process when thinking about your own future post-secondary education and career? Explain in 3-5 solid sentences.



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