

***Understanding Basic Skills and Transitioning to College***

**Pre-Viewing Activity – Discovery**

You will be watching a video titled: UNDERSTANDING BASIC SKILLS and TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE. What kinds of information do you think you will learn from this video? Write four or five predictions below. When you are finished, compare your answers with a classmate.

I think I will learn:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Understanding Basic Skills and Transitioning to College

### Pre-Viewing Activity – Vocabulary

You will hear or see the following sentences in the video you are about to watch. Please read these sentences with a classmate and write a synonym or short definition for the word in italics. Try to *guess* the meaning of the italicized words without using a dictionary.

Note: Because these are spoken sentences, you may find some grammar errors or odd constructions.

1. And it is important to start at the level the placement test *indicates*, even if it places you below college level.

*indicates:* \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Ignoring* the results of the placement test can really set you up for failure before you've even started.

*ignoring:* \_\_\_\_\_

3. But most students come to realize their placement was *accurate* – that they really weren't ready for a higher level course.

*accurate:* \_\_\_\_\_

4. These courses are much more academic and *rigorous*; students prepare for college level English.

*rigorous:* \_\_\_\_\_

5. Senait started *pursuing* higher education shortly after arriving in America from Eritrea.

*pursuing:* \_\_\_\_\_

6. Some of them are more research oriented, where some others have more *concrete* language skills, like paragraph writing that they work on.

*concrete:* \_\_\_\_\_

## Understanding Basic Skills and Transitioning to College

### Pre-Viewing Activity – Vocabulary

7. A lot of our students aren't prepared for the *concept* of you're only in class for three hours a day and that you need to study a certain amount of time for those three hours...

*concept:* \_\_\_\_\_

8. And Sy is one who knows where students run into *stumbling blocks*.

*stumbling blocks:* \_\_\_\_\_

9. One of the main *pitfalls* for our students transitioning from basic skills to college level or vocational/technical program classes is the misunderstanding of the cost of tuition.

*pitfalls:* \_\_\_\_\_

10. It looks like it's a *daunting* process.

*daunting:* \_\_\_\_\_

11. Something to keep in mind as you are *navigating* these courses: your goal is college.

*navigating:* \_\_\_\_\_

12. Requesting help to finance schooling is a common and *acceptable* practice.

*acceptable:* \_\_\_\_\_

13. Once you've done that, once we're *confident* that you are ready to benefit from college level classes, then there actually are quite a lot of really exciting options.

*confident:* \_\_\_\_\_

14. You might be having to *juggle* finances.

*juggle:* \_\_\_\_\_

15. I think education is probably the most *accessible* way that people can change or alter their life circumstances.

*accessible:* \_\_\_\_\_

Read the sentences below before you watch the video. You will hear all of these sentences in the video, but in some of the sentences a word or words have been changed so the information is not correct. As you watch, you will need to listen carefully!

Put an **C** in front of the sentences that you hear that are correct. Put an **X** in front of the sentences that you hear that are not correct. Then find and change the word or words in the sentences that are not correct. The first one has been done for you.

- X 1. Starting at a level below your knowledge may lead to ~~confusion~~.  
*boredom*
- \_\_\_ 2. Once you apply to the community college, you will be asked to take a placement test.
- \_\_\_ 3. Starting your college career with pre-college courses is not a good idea.
- \_\_\_ 4. The good news about those programs is that they are very, very low cost.
- \_\_\_ 5. There are three ESL programs.
- \_\_\_ 6. GED stands for General Educational Development and there are four tests that you need to pass, and you have to get a certain average.
- \_\_\_ 8. If you need help, ask for it.
- \_\_\_ 9. Senait will tell you that if you want help, there are plenty of resources available.
- \_\_\_ 10. Advisor Sy Ear will tell you about a unique tool known as the Transition Portfolio used at South Seattle Community College.
- \_\_\_ 11. Each section includes two to ten different activities that students work on...
- \_\_\_ 12. Research the college programs you are interested in, find out the program requirements and pre-requisites, and be sure to start this process early.
- \_\_\_ 13. Another thing to keep in mind: all of these processes you are going through are creating transferrable skills...

Part 1:

Before watching this video, you wrote some predictions about what you would learn. Were your predictions correct? Did you learn what you thought you would learn?

Please review your Pre-Viewing Activity handout. Circle the number of each prediction on your list that actually appeared in the video.

Part 2:

What do you still need to know about transitioning from basic skills to college level classes? Write three questions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you ask to get this information (counselors, advisors, teachers, family, friends)? Be specific. If possible, use names.

For Question 1: \_\_\_\_\_

For Question 2: \_\_\_\_\_

For Question 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3:

Choose one or two of your questions in Part 2 and talk to the person/people you identified as being able to provide the answers you need.

Write a short paragraph summary that includes your question, the answer, the process you used to find the information you needed, and how you feel about that process.