



<b>Portfolio Project Program Sessions</b> The program sessions consist of presenters in the education field, resource providers, current students and alumni. The sessions will include hands on work towards completion of the portfolio. <b>ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAYS 12:30PM-3:00PM</b>	
Session Dates	Content
October 4	<b>Kick-Off &amp; Team Building</b> -Parents, Students, Mentors and Presenters learn the program basics and sign program participation commitments. Mentors will participate in a mentor training session while students here about leadership and goal setting. Presenters: UNCF, Black Achievers YMCA, Thurston Group
<b>Homework</b>	<b>Develop a list of ten colleges you would like to attend with explanation of your selections.</b>
October 11	<b>Which Colleges?</b> -Students will come to the session with a list of ten colleges and categorize them as their reach, middle and probable school. The list will be narrowed to the top 5  <b>When Should You Apply?</b> -Early decision, early action, priority deadlines, drop deadlines. What do these terms mean? Review the top 5 schools and find out deadlines for each.  <b>Common Application and Supplemental Materials</b>  <b>Access PATHFINDERS</b> -Students will respond to questions in the BRIDGES programs and evaluate the content.  Presenter: NELA
<b>Homework</b>	<b>Narrow the initial list of ten to top five. Research the top 5 schools regarding deadlines and requirements. Find out the essay requirements for each school.</b>
October 18	<b>Tackling the College Essay</b> —Come prepared with the essay content requirement for the top 5 schools identified. Students will learn the basics of writing the college essay and will develop an outline for each school essay required. Presenter: Education Access Network
<b>Homework</b>	<b>Develop draft essays for each school.</b>
October 25	<b>College Essay Continued</b> —Participants will share their college essays in working sessions with their mentors with a goal of finalizing the essays in the next week. Presenter: Education Access Network
<b>Homework</b>	<b>Finalize college essay. Print college applications, including letters of recommendation forms for top five schools. Develop a list of your academic, leadership, school and community activities to provide with your request for a letter of recommendation.</b>
November 1	<b>Letters of Recommendation</b> —This session will give you information on who are the best prospects to secure to draft your letters of recommendation keeping in mind what each college is requesting. It will also provide information on preparing draft letters of recommendation and how to make a request. Presenter: NELA  <b>PSAT, SAT, ACT, WASL</b> -Dates, deadlines and strategies. <b>Transcripts</b> —How they are used in the evaluative process. Focus on the senior year and its impact on the overall review process.  <b>Campus Life-From Those Who Know</b> - Current students and alumni will talk about living on and off campus, campus activities and organizations.
<b>Homework</b>	<b>Develop list of persons you will be requesting letters from with column for date of request, date due, form required Y/N and date returned. Draft a generic letter for requesting a letter of recommendation from required person. Submit these requests this week to each person. Work with your mentor to review your request letter prior to submitting to your recommender.</b>
November 8	<b>Financial Aid and the FAFSA</b> -Scholarship resources and FAFSA review. Presenter: NELA  <b>Portfolio Format</b> -What should the completed portfolio look like? How will it help you? Samples of portfolios will be provided to each student to begin to develop one for each of the five top schools. Presenter: Past participating students-UNCF
<b>Homework</b>	<b>Request a copy of your transcript and evaluate with your mentor. What can you do now to change any derogatory</b>

	information? Go to <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> to find out general information required. Know who else you need to get information from and inform them now. Develop the cover page and your resume for insertion in the portfolio. <b>Enclose at least one essay. Include your transcript and general application.</b>
November 15	Portfolio Status-What's missing and how you're going to get it. Check your deadlines. Presentation Skills-It's not only about what's on paper but how you present it. College & Scholarship Resource Presentations
Homework	Complete the portfolio and determine your approach for submitting the information.
November 22	Portfolio Presentations-Each student is required to present their portfolio to the group. College & Scholarship Resource Presentations
	<b>STAY CONNECTED</b> —E-mail your mentor and program sponsors to let them know how your portfolio is working for you and additional resources you need.

 <p><b>YMCA</b> OF GREATER SEATTLE</p> <p>We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.</p>	<p><b>Shomari Jones</b> <i>Sr. Director</i> <i>Black Achievers Program</i></p>
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