

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” — **Maya Angelou**

College, Career, Military Ready

From: Combat Zones to
Classrooms: Building Justice
Through Education and Leadership

by Ofelia Juarez



WHO AM I?



LA JOYA HIGH SCHOOL

2000

Texas Scholar
All Around Athlete



SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

2001 (2020-2022)

Associates Political Science
Honors



UNITED STATES ARMY

2000-2008

Counter-Drug Taskforce
Operation Iraquee Freedom
Operation Enduring Freedom
Hurricane Katrina Relief



COUNTER-DRUG TASKFORCE

2001-2006

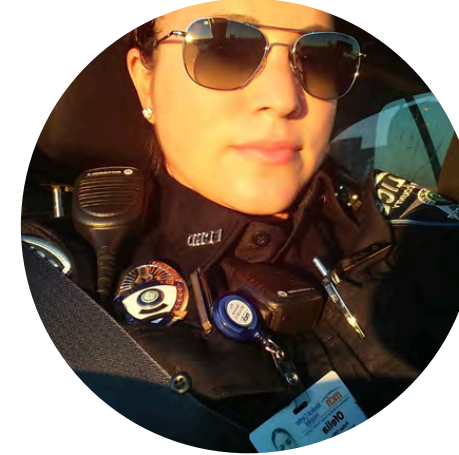
US Customs - Cargo Inspector
Border Patrol - Cargo Inspector
FBI - Intel Analyst
DEA - Wire Tapping



MISSION POLICE DEPARTMENT

2005 - 2013

LRGVDC Police Academy
Patrol Officer
Victim Liason
School Resource Officer



ODESSA, TEXAS

2014-2016

FTSI - DOT Inspector - Oil Industry
Ector County Hospital District -
Officer



EDINBURG CISD

2016-2021

School Resource Officer
Police Corporal
Director - Police Explorer



Student Council/Student Body ✱
Co-Sponsor

2022-2025
CTE – Law Teacher
Sharyland Pioneer
High School

SADD
Sponsor

Criminal Justice
Sponsor

Mock Trial
Sponsor

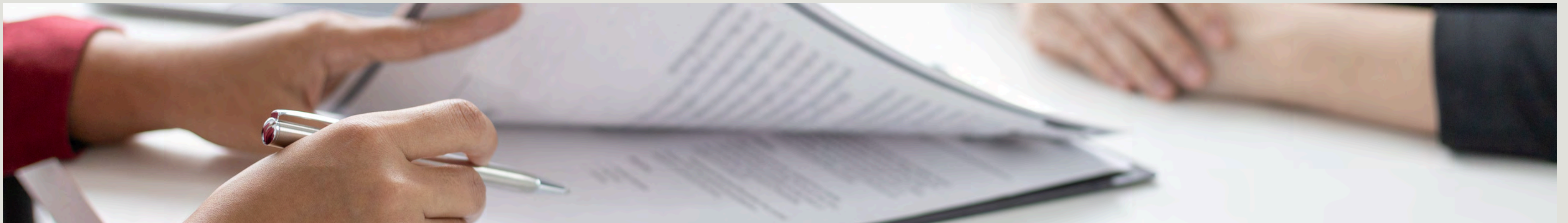
WHAT IS COLLEGE, CAREER, MILITARY READY?



Students who have acquired the knowledge, skills, and qualifications necessary to successfully transition into postsecondary education, the workforce, or the military after high school.

College Ready

- Meeting academic benchmarks for college admissions (e.g., SAT, ACT, or state assessments)
- Completing advanced coursework (e.g., AP, IB, or dual credit classes)
- Demonstrating proficiency in college-level reading, writing, and math
- Earning industry-recognized credentials that align with college pathways



Career Ready

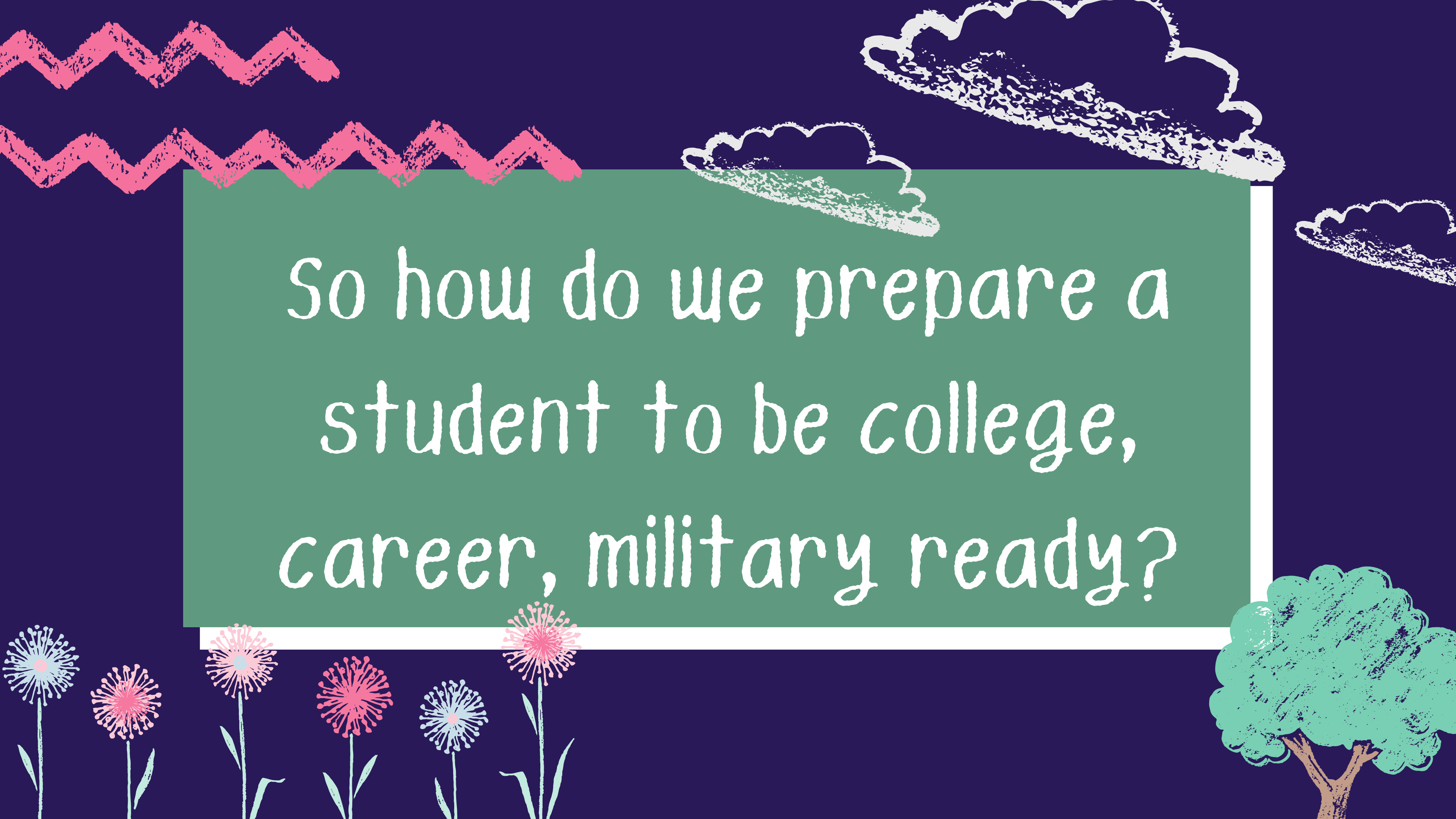
- Gaining workplace skills and competencies through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs
- Earning industry certifications or credentials
- Completing internships, apprenticeships, or job-shadowing experiences
- Developing problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills that employers value



Military Ready

- Meeting military enlistment qualifications (ASVAB scores, physical fitness standards, and background requirements)
- Participating in Junior ROTC or other military preparatory programs
- Demonstrating leadership and discipline through extracurricular activities





So how do we prepare a
student to be college,
career, military ready?

Activity

Everyone stand up against the wall and stand next to each other...

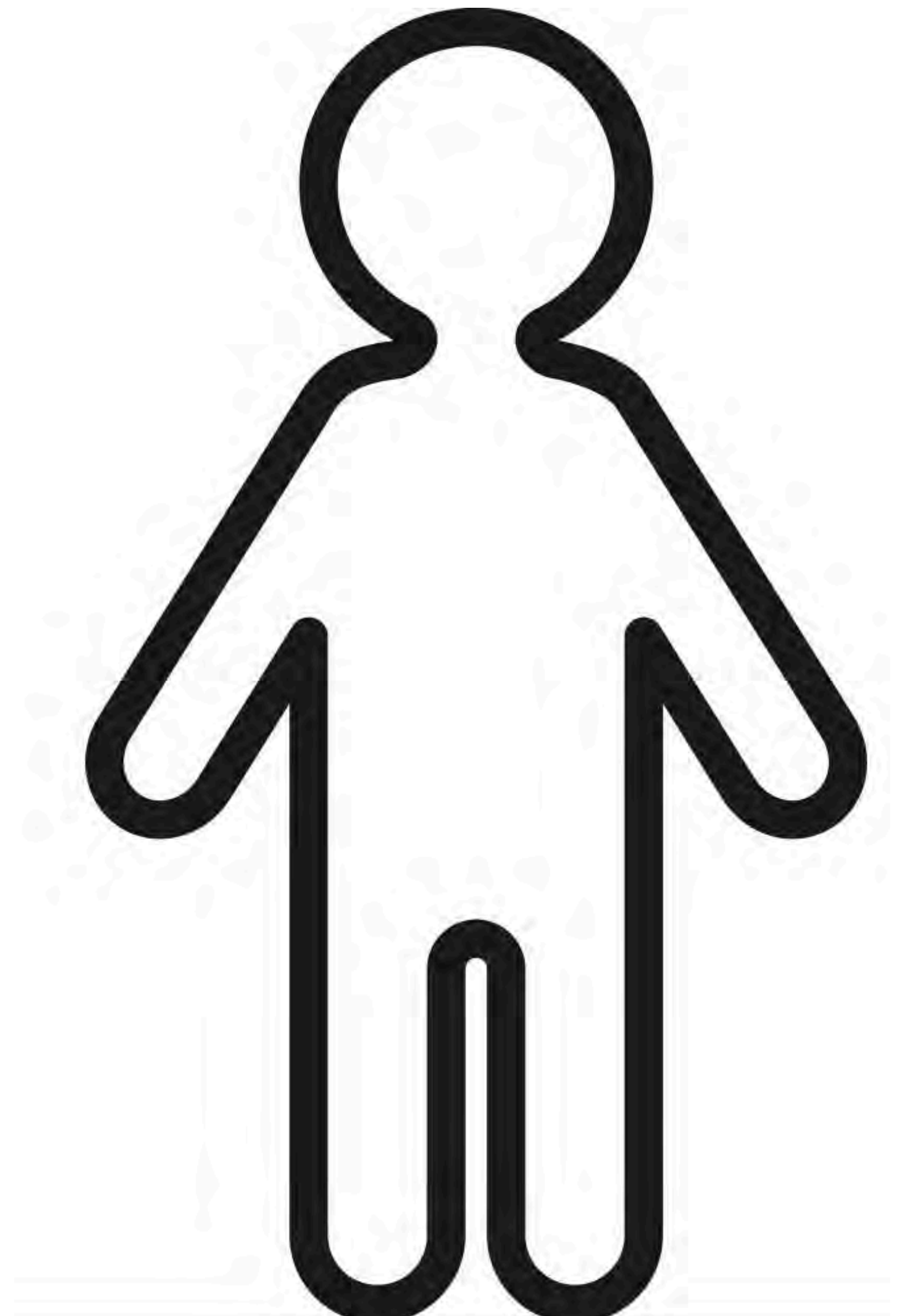
You will now pick up one foot, lift it off the ground at the same time step down.

It must be all at the same time either the right or the left foot, therefore
all right foot or all left foot must step down.

WHAT SKILLS DID YOU USE?

On your notepad draw a silhouette of a person, inside the person draw what careers, experience, or skills YOU currently possess.

First Assess and Recognize



Leadership & Discipline

Decision-making under pressure
Ethical leadership and integrity
Teamwork and collaboration
Conflict resolution and de-escalation

Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving

Situational awareness and quick decision-making
Crisis management and problem-solving
Adaptability and resilience in high-stress situations

Mental Health & Emotional Intelligence

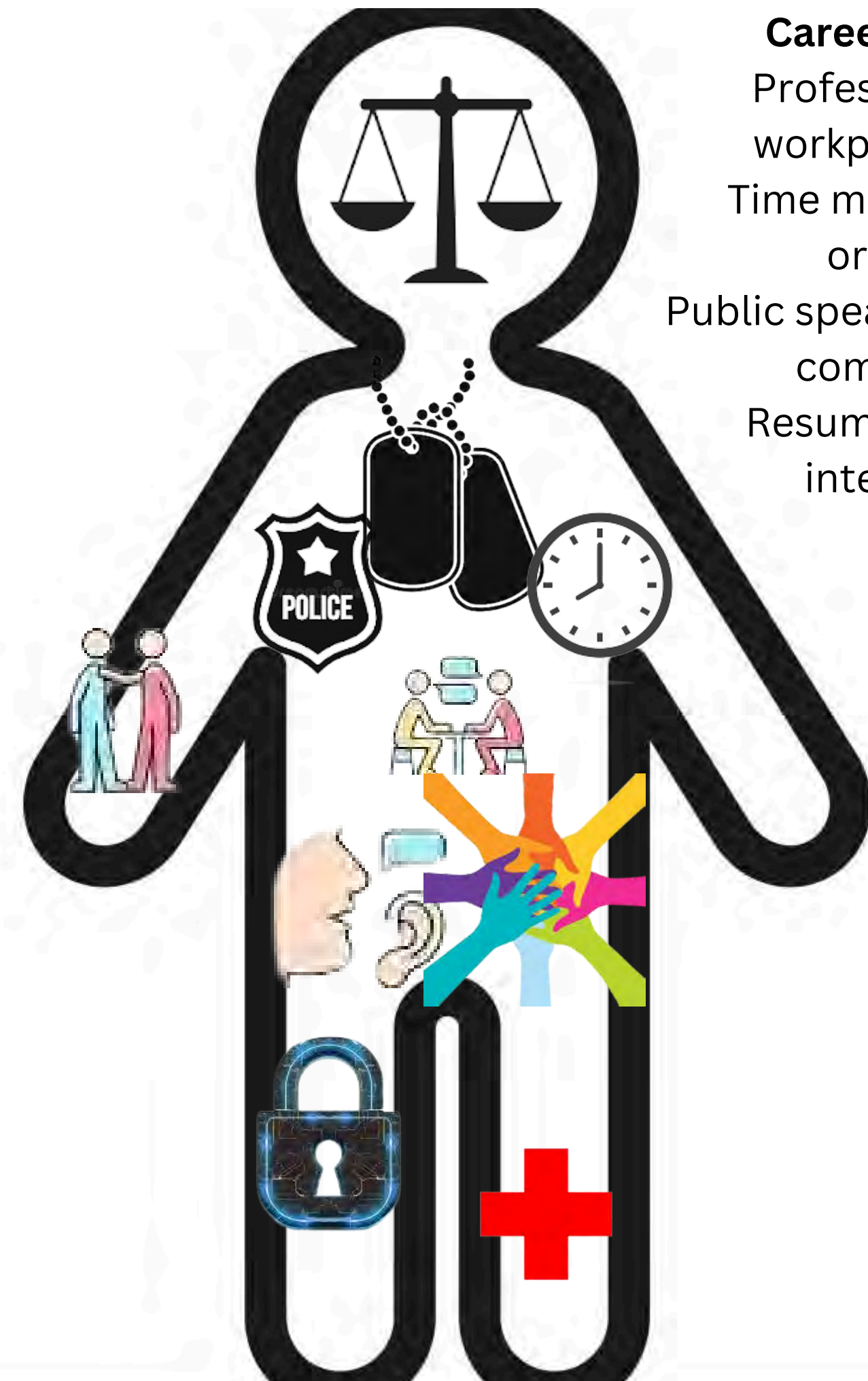
Stress management and coping strategies
Emotional regulation and self-awareness
Communication skills for difficult conversations
Recognizing and addressing trauma

Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Personal safety and self-defense awareness
First aid, CPR, and emergency response
Disaster preparedness and risk assessment
Cybersecurity and online safety

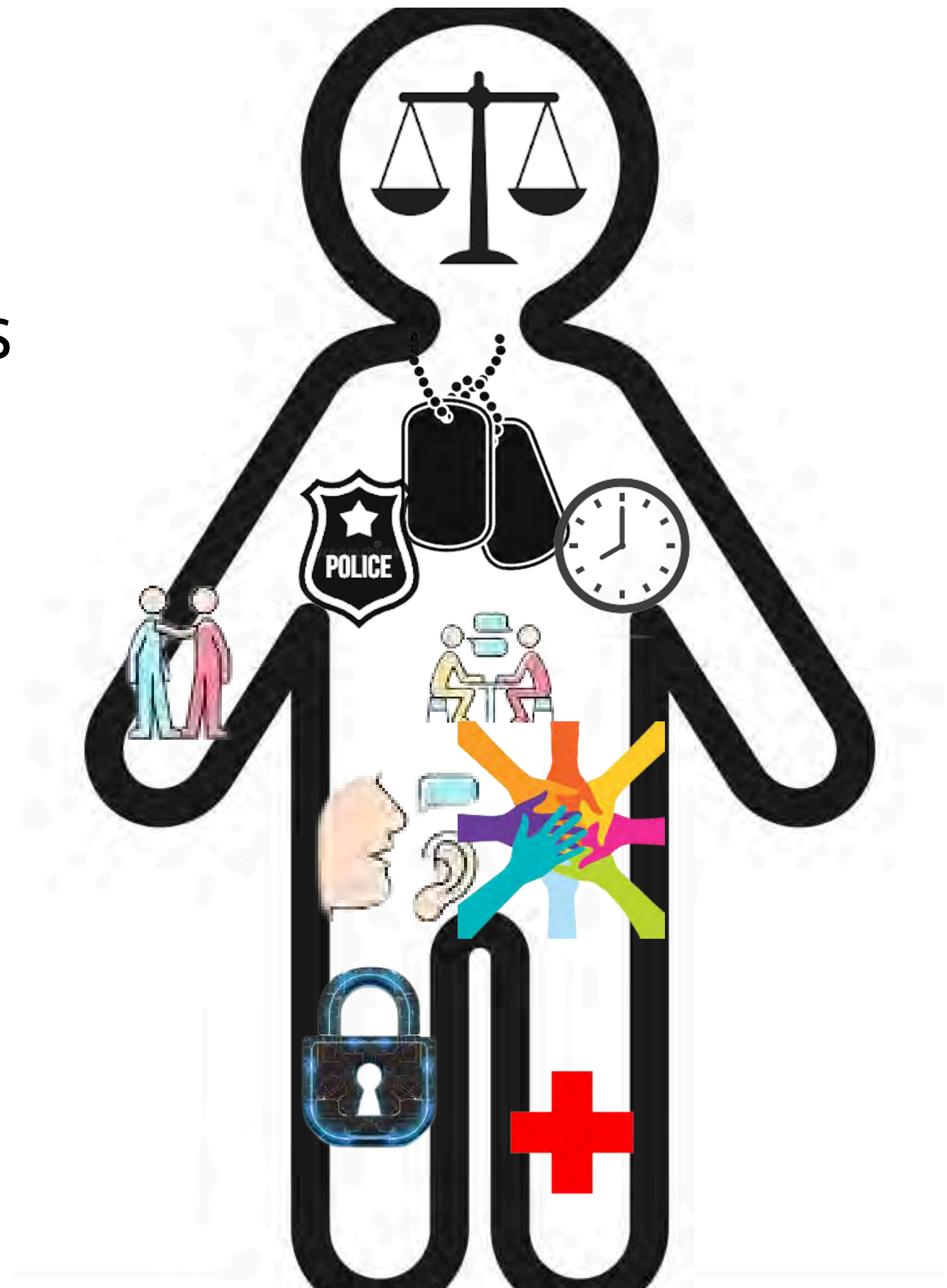
Career & Life Skills

Professionalism and workplace etiquette
Time management and organization
Public speaking and effective communication
Resume building and interview skills



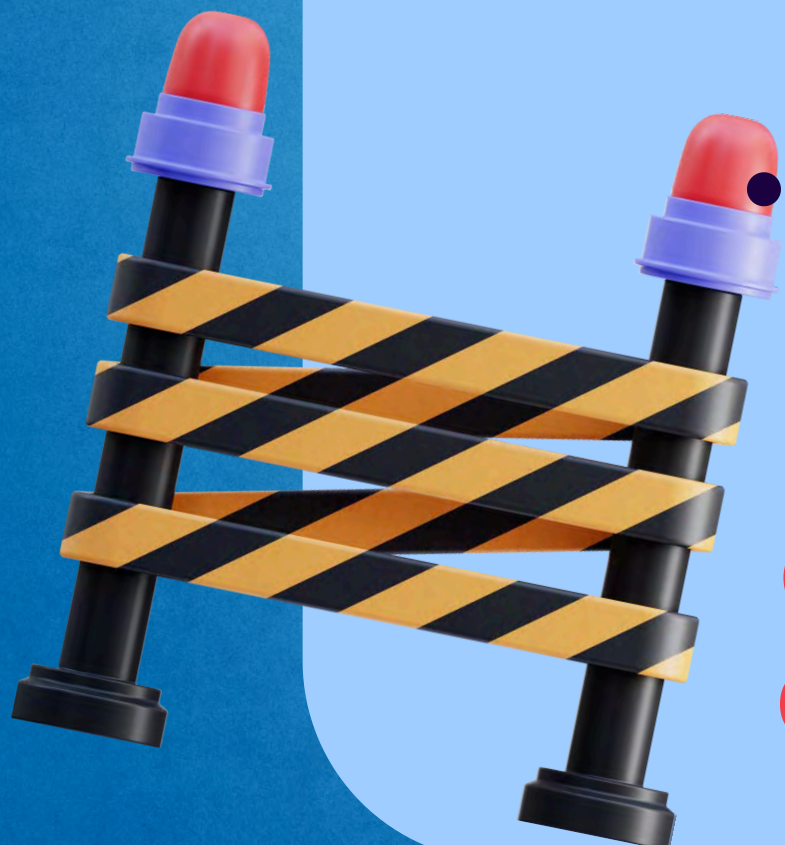
Now that you have built your own character, discuss within your group what type of careers can your character work at?

How can you pass on these skills to your students?



ASSESS & SET GOALS

- **Conduct interest and aptitude assessments to identify student strengths and career pathways (e.g., ASVAB, career inventories, SAT/ACT benchmarks).**
- **Help students set short-term and long-term goals for college, careers, or the military.**
- **Provide academic counseling to ensure students enroll in the right courses.**



College Bookmark
Character Creator

Game Challengers
Team Building Activities





Build a Strong Academic Foundation



- Ensure students take rigorous coursework such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Dual Credit classes for college readiness.
- Support career readiness through Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs with industry-recognized certifications.
- Teach essential skills like critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving that apply across all paths.

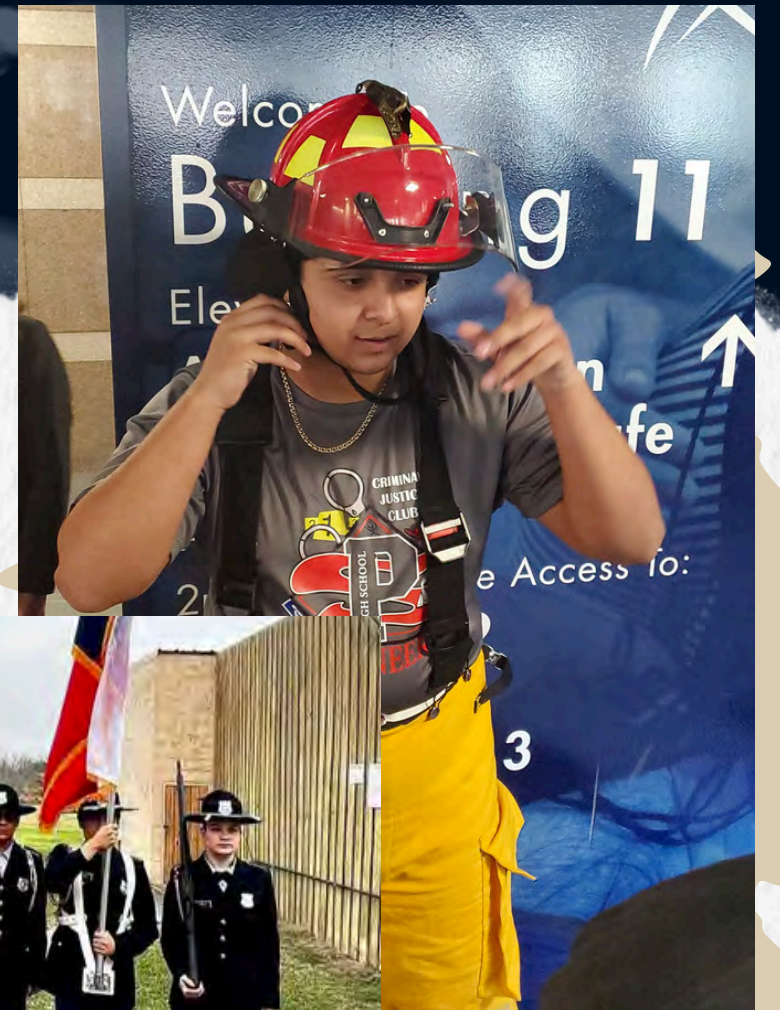


Team building activity results?



Provide Real-World Experiences

- Encourage internships, apprenticeships, or job shadowing for career exposure.
- Support Junior ROTC, law enforcement explorers, or similar programs for military preparation.
- Offer leadership and extracurricular opportunities (debate, student government, clubs, athletics).



C.E.R.T.

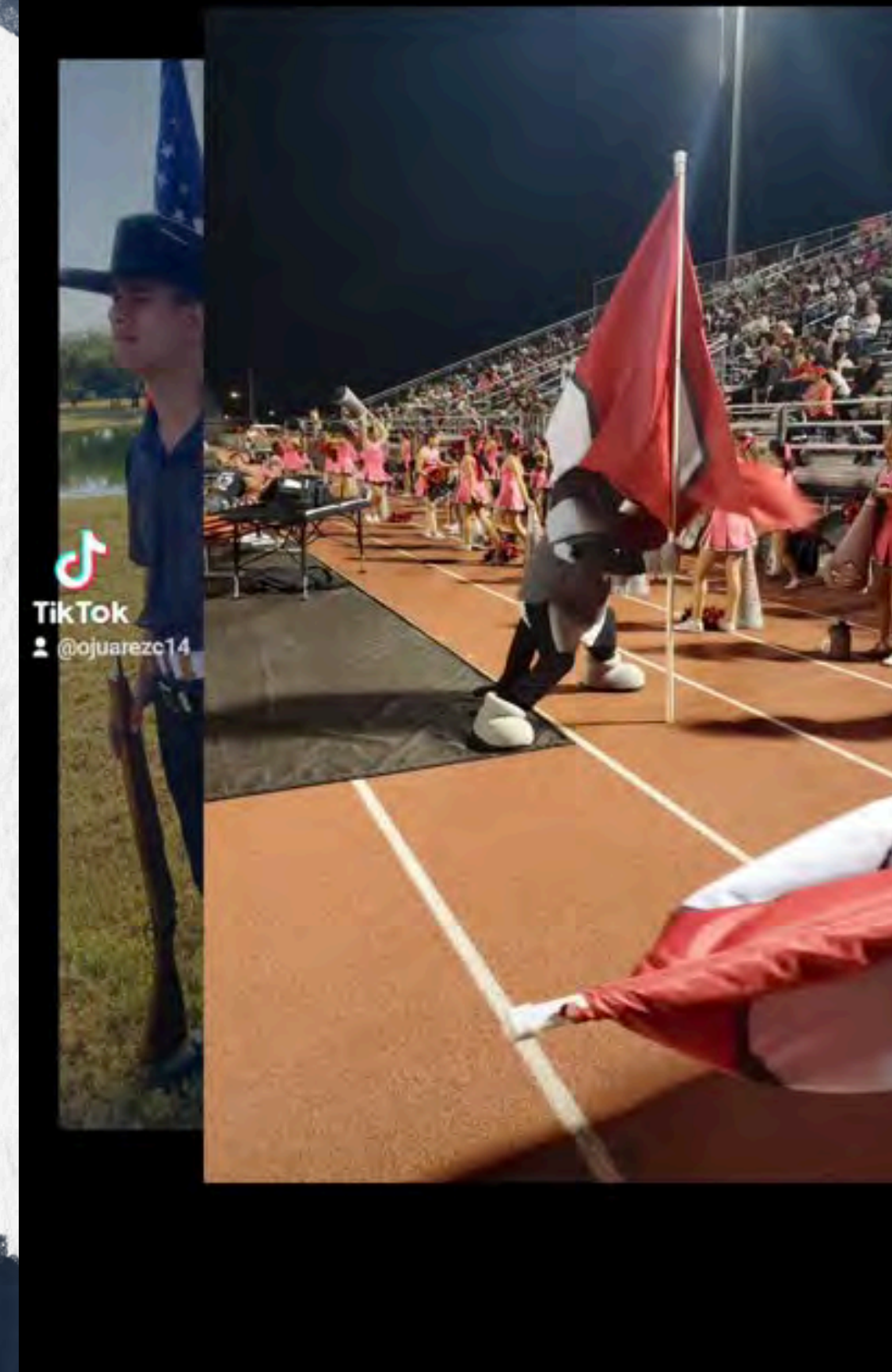
Community
Emergency
Response
Team



Provide Real-World Experiences



Provide Real-World Experiences





Develop Soft Skills & Character



- Teach emotional intelligence, teamwork, and discipline, essential for all postsecondary paths.
- Provide public speaking and interview practice to prepare students for job or college admissions interviews.
- Incorporate resilience training and stress management to help students adapt to challenges.



POL - Oral Board Interview



Develop Soft Skills & Character

Mock Trial

Mock trial prepares students for college, careers, and military service by developing essential skills such as critical thinking, public speaking, teamwork, and leadership



- Students learn to analyze legal cases, evidence, and arguments,
- Public Speaking: Arguing cases in front of judges and juries builds confidence in oral communication.
- Rese research skills and persuasive writing—both crucial in college essays and debates.

ENSURE ACCESS TO RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- Guide students through college applications, FAFSA, and scholarship searches.
- Offer tutoring and mentorship to help struggling students stay on track.
- Connect students with military recruiters, career counselors, and college advisors to explore all options.



Tour Guides to Go Center

Know your connections



Full Scholarships for College/ Universities Officers

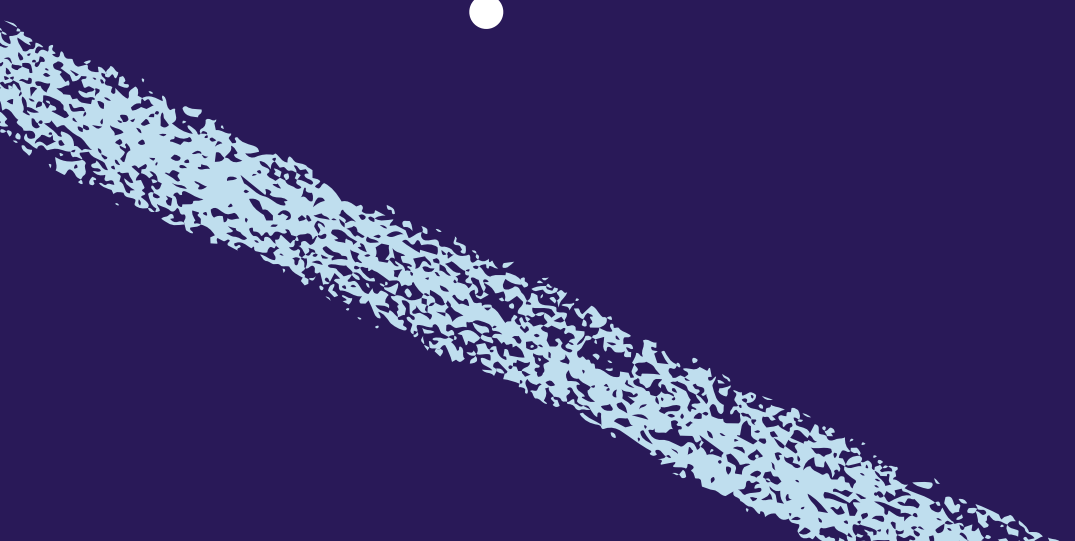





Track Progress & Adjust Plans as Needed



- Regularly review student progress and adjust learning plans accordingly.
- Keep parents, teachers, and counselors engaged in student development.
- Encourage self-reflection and adaptability as students refine their goals.
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End of Year Banquet
Knowing your students



End of year Banquet



Discuss

ANY Questions?

