Understanding GPA Lesson Plan

RaiseMe

LESSON PLAN INSTRUCTIONS

✅ **Objective:**
Students will define GPA and explain how it is calculated. Students will explain how GPA is used to track academic progress and why it matters when preparing for college.

💡 **Key Points:**

- GPA is short for Grade Point Average. It's a metric to help you track overall academic progress and measure improvement in coursework.
- Unweighted GPA is on a 4.0 scale and does not take into account the difficulty of a course. Weighted GPA is on a 5.0 scale and gives more points to high grades in challenging courses like AP, IB, Honors, or Advanced.
- You can look at the average GPA of admitted students to set goals for yourself when exploring colleges.

GPA on RaiseMe:

- RaiseMe uses unweighted GPA in order to have one standardized scale to determine micro-scholarship eligibility for any student in the nation. RaiseMe calculates GPA using core courses, defined by any classes in the following subject areas: Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Foreign Language.
- RaiseMe college partners set a GPA minimum in order to be eligible for their micro-scholarships. This is the GPA calculated by RaiseMe.
    - It's okay if the GPA you see on RaiseMe is different from the one you see on your transcript. This is simply a way to set one measure for all students and allow you to gauge the minimum you can expect in aid if admitted.

📄 **Activity:**

1. Worksheet: Calculating GPA
    a. Estimated time: 15-20 min
    b. Students will learn the difference between weighted and unweighted GPA, calculate the GPA of a sample student, then calculate their own GPA

🔗 **Requirements:**

1. Printed hard copies of the worksheets
2. *If Available:* a copy of the student's transcript to calculate their own GPA

Worksheet: Calculating GPA

GPA is short for Grade Point Average. It's a measurement that tracks overall academic progress as well as any improvement made in coursework.

- **Unweighted GPA** is on a 4.0 scale and does not take into account the difficulty of a course.
- **Weighted GPA** is on a 5.0 scale and gives more points to high grades in challenging courses like AP, IB, Honors, or Advanced.

Grade	Unweighted	Weighted
A	4.0	5.0
A-	3.7	4.7
B+	3.3	4.3
B	3.0	4.0
B-	2.7	3.7
C+	2.3	3.3
C	2.0	3.0
C-	1.7	2.7
D+	1.3	2.3
D	1.0	2.0
F	0.0	1.0

Improving your GPA is a strong indicator of academic progress, and colleges get really excited to see that growth! What are some ways you can earn and maintain a high GPA?

Calculating GPA

Rafael just got his first semester grades from freshman year. Calculate his GPA:

Step 1: Assign a point value to each grade using the table above. You decide if you want to calculate unweighted or weighted!
Step 2: Calculate the grade points per course
Step 3: Add up the total credits and total grade points
Step 4: Use the formula to determine his GPA

Fall Semester 2019				
Course Title	**Credits Earned**	**Grade**	**Points** (Use the table above)	**Grade Points** (credits x points)
English 9	0.5	A		
Algebra 1	0.5	B		
Biology 1	0.5	B-		
U.S. Geography	0.5	A-		
Spanish 1	0.5	A		
Graphic Design 1	1.0	A		
Physical Education	1.0	A		

Total Credits: _____   **Total Grade Points**: _____

GPA = <u>Total Grade Points</u>   =
          Total Credits Hours

Your turn! What would your GPA be if you achieved your goal grade in each course?
Ask your teacher if you're not sure how many credits a course is worth.

Fall 2019				
Course Title	**Credits**	**Goal Grade**	**Points**	**Grade Points** (credits x points)

Total Credits: _____   **Total Grade Points**: _____

GPA = <u>Total Grade Points</u>   =
          Total Credits Hours

   What are some habits you can commit to each week that will help you maintain a high GPA?

To check out some tips for success from RaiseMe alumni, read their advice here:
https://www.raise.me/blog/back-to-school-student-insights/