**Hidden Costs of Not Being Educated**

Through the course of our working with the young men, we have looked to drive home common sense and real world experiences that will help them grow into self-sufficient strong men. However, the past few weeks have shown us that we need to also devote time to discussing with the boys the absolute necessity of attaining a formal education. Street smarts and common sense are important, but they are merely a component of what it takes for a man to be successful. A formal education can open up doors that common sense will not. We will devote this lesson to dealing with why it is important to get a formal education and, conversely, what waits for the young should they not attain it.

Schedule:

6:30pm Recap of the last session where we began to scratch the surface in regards to why the young men need an education. Ask someone to tell us what they remember from their group session. Ask if they have made any changes in how they approach their school work (taking notes, asking teacher for help, aligning themselves with others who are looking to do well.

6:40pm Common Sense Tips : what are the hidden costs of not being educated?

* Stuck in a boring and non-meaningful career
* Little to no direction in your life
* Cannot advance to the top of your profession
* Lower life expectancy

6:50pm Get some feedback from the boys. Tell us what happens if you don’t get an education. For everyone that wants to be a professional athlete, what happens if you blow out your ACL? Mentors should share experiences of education and/or specialized training that has helped them with earning power or career advancement.

7:10pm Break

7:20pm Break into age-specific groups

**MENTOR TEACHING PLAN:** For each topic. 1) Define the concept. 2) Provide the mentees examples of how they encounter it in life. 3) Ask the mentees to explain it to you in their own words to ensure that they understand it. 4) Give mentees tips on how they can start to take action to begin using the concept. [Ensure that all mentees participate.]

**Explain the young men that formal training is something that will stay with you for your entire life. In other words, no one can take that away from you.**

1. Examples of formal education or training that the mentor has taken
2. Define the topic : Revisit was a formal education consists of. It’s something with a set of guidelines and upon completion; you receive a degree/certification/diploma.
3. Mentor provides real life example: Speak about formal education you’ve received. Why did it help you? Given the chance,is there anything you would have done differently?
4. Ensure the mentees understand the concept: Have the mentees explain in their own words what are the benefits of formal training and what are the drawbacks of not having that training.
5. Discuss how not having formal education impacts our community
6. Define the topic: How does a community with more educated people look? How does a community with only a few educated people look? Education helps to reduce economic disparity.
7. Mentor provides real life examples: Places you’ve been where it’s painfully obvious that the majority of the residents are uneducated. Give examples of both places near Los Angeles and abroad.
8. Ensure the mentees understand the concept: Have them explain in their own words how it helps the community for people to be educated. How does it hurt to the community to not have its residents educated?
9. Discuss how lacking a formal education is especially problematic for black men.
10. Define the topic: As black men, the odds are already stacked against us. It is absolutely imperative to have something that helps to the level the playing field.
11. Mentor provides real life examples: Tell a story about you or someone you know who career stalled because they lacked the formal training to attain advancement. What would have happened if they had that formal training?
12. Ensure the mentees understand the concept: Have them paraphrase the concept. Ask them if they know any adults who did not achieve their goals because they lacked formal education.

7:45pm **Regroup and mentees from each group discuss what they learned**

7:55pm **Prayer and Dismissal**