How costly is the decision to drop out of high school? Consider a few figures about life without a diploma:

**$20,241**

The average dropout can expect to earn an annual income of $20,241, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That’s a full $10,386 less than the typical high school graduate, and $36,424 less than someone with a bachelor’s degree.

**12**

Of course, simply finding a job is also much more of a challenge for dropouts. While the national unemployment rate stood at 8.1 percent in August, joblessness among those without a high school degree measured 12 percent. Among college graduates, it was 4.1 percent.

**30.8**

The challenges hardly end there, particularly among young dropouts. Among those between the ages of 18 and 24, dropouts were more than twice as likely as college graduates to live in poverty according to the Department of Education. Dropouts experienced a poverty rate of 30.8 percent, while those with at least a bachelor’s degree had a poverty rate of 13.5 percent.

**63**

Among dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24, incarceration rates were a whopping 63 times higher than among college graduates, according to a study by researchers at Northeastern University. To be sure, there is no direct link between prison and the decision to leave high school early. Rather, the data is further evidence that dropouts are exposed to many of the same socioeconomic forces that are often gateways to crime.

**Directions:** Answer the following question after reading over the information above.

1. Highlight a fact about dropouts that was surprising. Explain why this fact was so shocking.

2. How can poverty affect education?
Directions: While watching the documentary, complete the chart below and answer the questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description/Personality</th>
<th>Marcus</th>
<th>Lawrence</th>
<th>Marco</th>
<th>Sparkle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Struggles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs for Success</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Was there anything in the film that you had a powerful reaction to, be it hope, anger or some other emotion?

2. What issues raised in the film are relevant in our community here at Del Campo?