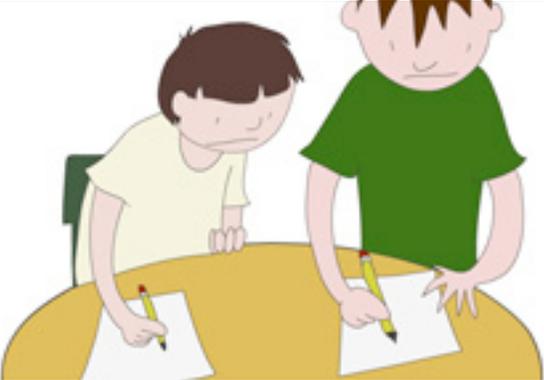
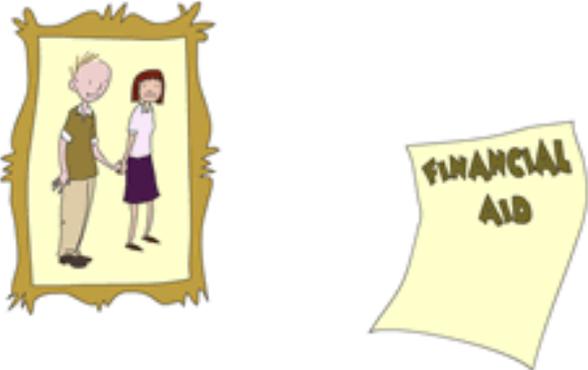


View	Narration
	<p>It turned out Marvin wasn't the first in his family to go to college. It was going to be a tie with his kid brother, Melvin.</p>
	<p>Melvin was right out of high school.</p>
	<p>He was following in his big brother's footsteps. Melvin applied to the same school as Marvin, filled out the financial aid paperwork, and was even considering the same major.</p>
	<p>The big difference was, unlike his brother, Melvin never served in AmeriCorps.</p>

View	Narration
	<p>When Marvin and Melvin received their financial aid offer letters, Marvin was provided a better aid package.</p> <p>Poor Melvin!</p> <p>Melvin: "Why?!"</p>
	<p>It goes right back to national service. Here's how.</p> <p>One of the best and least talked about benefits for students who have served has to do with applying for financial aid. The benefit occurs when you fill out the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance.</p> <p>Financial aid is based on need, and schools use the FAFSA to determine the students most in need of aid.</p>
	<p>VISTA and AmeriCorps members are often high need based solely on the living allowance, but the FAFSA provides an extra boost.</p>
	<p>Listen closely, little brother.</p>

View	Narration
 <p>LAST YEAR'S INCOME = \$0</p>	<p>The FAFSA doesn't count the living allowance received from AmeriCorps in the previous year as income. In other words, for financial aid purposes, Marvin's AmeriCorps income last year counts as zero. He is eligible to receive great financial aid!</p>
	<p>Melvin, meanwhile, was working in the summer and part-time while in high school so he could afford his car. The income he received counted against him when he applied for financial aid.</p>
	<p>On another note, the brothers were young enough that they needed to report their parents' income on the FAFSA. This hurt Melvin worse than Marvin since Melvin had not served with AmeriCorps.</p>
	<p>So here's what you need to know: Whether you fill out the FAFSA online or on paper, look for the section labeled "Additional Financial Information" and Question 44D. Fill it out with your living allowance from the previous year. It's painless and can only help you get better financial aid. Even if your offer only includes loans, it can help you get better loans.</p>

View	Narration
	<p>If you cashed in your Education Award or received interest payments from AmeriCorps toward your student loan last year, you can also include that in this section of the FAFSA. Every little bit helps!</p>
	<p>It turned out Marvin was the first in his family to go to college after all. Melvin changed his mind and decided to join AmeriCorps before going to school. He really was following in his big brother's footsteps.</p>