

# Guideposts for Success: Lesson Plans and Activities

## Developed by the Institute for Educational Leadership

### LESSON 2: CONSIDERING LABOR MARKET INFORMATION IN YOUR CAREER CHOICE

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#### AT-A-GLANCE

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Though not all career choices are based on current labor market information, it is important for youth to understand the jobs that are in demand, which industries are losing steam and how to make decisions based on growing career fields. It is also important for youth to know where to find labor market information, if they choose to access it.

#### ICEBREAKER

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##### **Which Industries are Hot?** (Activity 2.1)

Potential methods of delivery include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. This activity can be used as a paper-pencil activity. Use the attached checklist and ask students to check the four industries they think are predicted to have the highest growth. Explanations should include at least one reason as to why.
2. Cut the page into strips (each strip would have one industry). Give each student a set of strips and ask them to rank the industry growth from 1 – 10.
3. Write each of the 10 industries on a separate sheet of paper and tape or place around the room. Give each students four post-its and ask them to put one post-it on each of the four of the industries they think will has the highest projected growth. As a group, you will see if the collective voice could determine the highest growth.

#### ICEBREAKER DISCUSSION

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1. What does it mean if an industry is projected to have growth?
2. Why might some people choose to work in an industry that is projected to have growth?
3. Why might some people NOT choose to work in an industry that is projected to have growth?
4. Do you think the “hot” industries of today are the same that were “hot” 10 years ago? Why or why not?

#### LESSON/ACTIVITY (will need computer/Internet access)

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Discuss the definition of Labor Market Information (often referred to as LMI). Labor Market Information is information about the market—where labor skills are exchanged for wages. Information can be descriptive (qualitative) or statistical (quantitative). The key elements in the labor market are the workers (labor resources) and jobs (employment opportunities).

Ask: “After reading/listening to this definition, how do you think Labor Market Information relates to career planning?”

Explore the Career One Stop Website to find out how to explore occupations.

1. Log onto [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org).
2. Click on “Student.” *[On the left hand column, you will find a statement which says:*

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*"CareerOneStop is: Your pathway to career success. Tools to help job seekers, students, businesses, and career professionals. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor."*]

3. Click on "Explore Careers."
4. Under "Learn About Industries," click on "What's Hot."
5. Click on "Fastest Growing Industries."
6. Ask each student to select an industry of choice—click on that industry and then scroll down to the bottom, "Profile an Occupation in this Industry."
7. Choose an occupation within this industry.
8. Select your state and review the occupational profile explore the following:
  - Occupational description
  - Video (for some occupations)
  - Wages
  - Employment trends
  - Knowledge, Skills & Abilities,
  - Tasks & Activities
  - Tools & Technology
  - Education & Training
  - Related Occupations
  - Web Resources
9. Have students discuss this information, either one-on-one or in a small group.
10. Ask students to list 3 interesting bits of information they learned about an occupation or simply print out information of interest to be viewed and explored at a later time.

### REFLECTION

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Were there any "growth" careers you found interesting? Is Labor Market Information something you think you should pay attention to when considering a career? Why or why not?

### EXTENSION

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Have students prepare a short presentation for the group about their occupation of choice. Included in this presentation should be reasons why or why not they may choose to pursue this occupation. This activity can be as simple or as elaborate as time allows (i.e., discussion, poster, PowerPoint presentation, etc.).

Research the emerging industries of 5 years ago, 10 years ago and 15 years ago. How do you deal with the fact that the career you are planning for today may not be the same 10 years from now?

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### ACTIVITY 2.1 - WHICH INDUSTRIES ARE HOT?

These are the TOP TEN industries that are projected to have the fastest growth from 2008-2018. FOUR of these industries have a projected growth of more than 50% by 2010. Which four industries do you think are predicted to be the fastest growing and why?

INDUSTRY	TOP 4? (✓)	REASON
Computer systems design and related services		
Data processing, hosting, and related services		
Home health care services		
Management, scientific, and technical consulting services		
Medical and diagnostic laboratories		
Offices of mental health practitioners (except physicians)		
Offices of physical, occupational and speech therapists, and audiologists		
Other general merchandise stores / Retail		
Services for the elderly and persons with disabilities		
Specialized design services		

**Source:** <http://www.careerinfonet.org/indview1.asp?id=8,&nodeid=45>

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### ACTIVITY 2.1 - WHICH INDUSTRIES ARE HOT?

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#### ANSWER KEY

<b>1</b>	Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	83%
<b>2</b>	Services for the elderly and persons with disabilities	74%
<b>3</b>	Offices of physical, occupational and speech therapists, and audiologists	56%
<b>4</b>	Data processing, hosting, and related services	53%
<b>5</b>	Home health care services	46%
<b>6</b>	Specialized design services	46%
<b>7</b>	Computer systems design and related services	45%
<b>8</b>	Offices of mental health practitioners (except physicians)	43%
<b>9</b>	Other general merchandise stores	41%
<b>10</b>	Medical and diagnostic laboratories	40%