

Guideposts for Success: Lesson Plans and Activities

Developed by the Institute for Educational Leadership

LESSON 1: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

AT-A-GLANCE

Before beginning this or any other series of activities related to career development, it is recommended that students be exposed to the differences between some of the language and terminology commonly used in the career development process. This information will be helpful to have students keep in their journal for future activities.

ICEBREAKER

For this activity, you will need “sticky” notes or index cards and tape, markers and a large piece of poster board. *Before the activity, write (in very large letters) the word “WORK” in the center of the poster board. If poster board is not available, you can simply use chalk to write the word “WORK” on the blackboard or a dry erase marker to write it on a white board.* Ask students to think about all of the possible reasons why people work. Also include the reasons why they do chores around the house. Each idea should be written on a separate sticky note or index card and placed on the poster board around the word “WORK.” Allow students 5 minutes for this quick brainstorming activity.

ICEBREAKER DISCUSSION

After the 5 minutes is up, work with the group to rank the most frequently listed reason through the least frequently listed reason. Discuss the fact that while some people work for money to pay the bills and support their families, others work for self-satisfaction, a sense of responsibility, giving back, and so on – and then there are others who work for all of these reasons!

NOTE: Miriam Webster Online (www.m-w.com) lists more than 10 different definitions of “work.” In general, WORK is an activity involving mental or physical effort in order to achieve a purpose or a result. It is not necessarily associated with earning money (which was probably the most frequently listed reason listed on the poster).

LESSON/ACTIVITY

Discuss the fact that often times, the terms job, occupation and career are used interchangeably. The fact is they have very different meanings. Show the group the following words: JOB, OCCUPATION, CAREER, INDUSTRY, CAREER CLUSTER, and CAREER PATHWAY. As a group, ask students if they can come up with a definition of these words? Can they figure out if the words are synonymous, related or mean entirely different things? If there are differences, what are they?

Use Activity 1.1 to describe and discuss the definitions of each word/phrase and the differences between them.

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REFLECTION

When you are in your teens, do you expect to have a job or a career? When you are in your 20's do you expect to have a job or a career? When you are in your 30's do you expect to have a job or a career? Why do you think the answers to these questions change over time?

EXTENSION

Have students conduct a survey to find out what how their peers respond to the following question: "What is the difference between a job and a career?" If possible, an additional survey could be completed for adults (define the age range). Students can then compare and contrast responses, create a graphic organizer (Venn diagram, T-chart, matrix, etc.) or find other creative ways to discuss and display their findings.

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ACTIVITY 1.1 - WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Directions: Often the terms job, occupation, and career are used interchangeably. In fact, they have very different meanings. Use the Word Bank to match the correct word with the definition presented below:

Word Bank

CAREER CAREER CLUSTER CAREER PATHWAY INDUSTRY JOB OCCUPATION

1.	<p>The tasks or duties a person performs at the workplace; work for which one receives pay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Example: biologist at XYZ company, manager at hardware store</i></p>
2.	<p>A wide category of jobs that have similar characteristics; a group of similar jobs found in various organizations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Examples include: physician, engineer, educator, scientist, accountant</i></p>
3.	<p>A chosen occupation or profession; the continuous process of learning and development in many aspects of your life.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Examples include: law, medicine, research, environmental science</i></p>
4.	<p>A group of companies that produce similar products or provide similar services and have highly similar business activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Examples include: financial services, healthcare, transportation, retail & wholesale, technology, biotechnology</i></p>
5.	<p>Groups of occupations that require a set of common knowledge and skills for career success.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Examples include: Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Transportation, Distribution & Logistics</i></p>
6.	<p>A specific and well thought out sequence of programming (academic and career/technical courses), often beginning in high school and leading to an associate degree, bachelor's degree and beyond, an industry recognized certificate, and/or licensure. Educators and industry professionals work together to develop these programs. There are multiple entry and exit points during these programs, so that all learners can find success.</p>

Answers: (1) Job; (2) Occupation; (3) Career; (4) Industry; (5) Career Cluster; (6) Career Pathway