

# Guideposts for Success: Lesson Plans and Activities

## Developed by the Institute for Educational Leadership

### LESSON 16: GENERATIONS AT WORK

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#### AT-A-GLANCE:

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Many times young people have no idea what their parents or guardians do for a living or how they wound up in their careers. This lesson is offering the opportunity to invite in or visit students' family members to interview them about their careers. For this exercise, you will want to be sure to speak to people who are still working (or who may have recently retired).

#### LESSON/ACTIVITY:

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Spend some time talking about how students think people (including their parents) found their jobs. Do they know what their parents (or important adults in their life) do for a living? Do they have an idea of what steps these adults have taken to find their current job or work in their industry?

Have students work together to create a list of questions to ask relatives about their career choices. The following are some examples to get you started, if students have difficulty coming up with a list on their own:

- How did you find your current job?
- At what age did you know what you wanted to do (or be)?
- Did you have a person who helped or guided you in a career direction?
- How many different jobs did you have in your lifetime and what were they?
- Did any of these jobs help you focus on a career direction? If so, how?
- If you could give advice to someone starting to look for work, what would it be?
- If you could give advice to someone who wanted to work in the career or industry you chose, what advice would you give?
- What education and training did you need for your career?
- What do you like most about your job? What do you find the most challenging?
  - Could you give me the name of another person I could talk to about this career?

Arrange for visits inside or outside the classroom (e.g. family guest speakers and visits to places of employment where a family member, extended family member or other adults in their lives, work). If you can work in a jobsite tour, that would be ideal! If visits/tours are not possible, students can conduct the interviews at home, over the telephone or via email.

#### EXTENSION

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Use the questions generated to create a survey. Include a question about job satisfaction. Have students interview 10 people each and then synthesize their information before sharing with all. Discuss the findings. Did most people enjoy their jobs? Where did they find the most overlaps in information across industries, etc.?