

# Guideposts for Success: Lesson Plans and Activities

## Developed by the Institute for Educational Leadership

### LESSON 17: PURPOSELY PLANNED OR LUCK OF THE DRAW?

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#### AT-A-GLANCE

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People find jobs in different ways. Many people have carefully planned their careers—and always knew what they wanted to do. Others may have found their way into their careers by having different experiences or by happenstance. This lesson is designed to have students identify the different ways people have found their jobs—and possibly determine if there is any correlation between job satisfaction and “purposely planned careers” or careers that were found by the “luck of the draw.”

#### LESSON/ACTIVITY

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As a continuation of Lesson 2-6, discuss how people wind up in the careers they do. Ask what percentage of people they think have an actual plan—and what percentage they think just “fall” into a career. Now lead a discussion about what students believe contributes to job satisfaction. Do they think job satisfaction in any way has to do with a carefully planned career or one that has been successful due to outside circumstances or influences?

Students will work together to create a list of questions related to job satisfaction and will identify people in different careers and industries to survey. Students will survey people in their lives, such as family, neighbors, teachers, etc. Students should also discuss and determine how many questions to ask. Is 5 questions enough...will 10 questions be too much...and so on. Questions should be created in Lykert-scale fashion (on a scale of 1 to ....) or True/False, etc., in order to be able to easily compare and contrast.

Sample questions may include those similar to the following:

- I look forward to going to work
- I enjoy what I do
- I like the environment I work in
- I feel positive and upbeat at work most of the time
- I feel recognized and appreciated at work
- I am respected at work
- I know what is expected of me at work

One question, however, must be asked: if respondents found their career through purposeful planning or by the luck of the draw.

Students should synthesize the information and come to a conclusion as to whether or not job satisfaction relates to how people found their careers. If it did, how do they know? If it didn't, what were some of the other variables that contributed to job satisfaction? Discuss the many factors related to job satisfaction.

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#### **EXTENSION**

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Use the same survey to interview additional people—in a place where there are many people (a downtown location, the mall, outside the grocery store, etc.). Was there a difference in the results? Did the increase in number of respondents change the results?