

Guideposts for Success: Lesson Plans and Activities

Developed by the Institute for Educational Leadership

LESSON 20: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED & HOW DO WE USE IT?

AT-A-GLANCE

During the course of these activities, students have used the computer, talked to people they knew, and those they didn't know. Is one way for job searching better than another? This culminating activity is designed to have students compare, contrast and individually rank the different methods of searching for and learning about different careers. The goal of this lesson is for students to recognize that using multiple methods will tend to yield better results.

LESSON/ACTIVITY

Individually, in small groups or as one large group, list the different methods students have used during this course of study to learn about different jobs, careers and workforce industries. The list should include, but does not need to be limited to: Internet research, local newspaper, interviews/guest speakers, visits to worksites, etc.)

Ask students to identify the PROS and CONS of each method. For example

METHOD	PROs	CONs
Internet	- Can do independently - -	- Can't ask questions - -
Newspaper		
Guest Speaker		
Etc.		

Next, ask each student to rate their *personal* order of preference for job searching/career exploration—and why they ranked the methods as they did. Students' ratings are most probably related to their own comfort zone (i.e., those who are more introverted may choose Internet research over interviewing a guest speaker, etc.)

Discuss the benefits of reaching outside of a personal "comfort zone" when it comes to searching for a job and planning for a career?

There tend to be four things that make us feel comfortable: familiarity with people, location, thoughts and actions. Ask students if we always "cling" to what we are most comfortable with, can we really grow? Why or why not? In so many areas of our lives, even if what we are doing works for us, a little effort to try something new or different could result in better outcomes.

Read the attached poem (Activity 20.1, author unknown) and discuss with students:

- What holds people inside of their personal comfort zones?
- What rewards might people receive when they venture outside of their comfort zones?

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EXTENSION

Students can create personal action plans for themselves – and discuss the steps they may need to take to get out of their own comfort zones.

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ACTIVITY 20.1 – COMFORT ZONE

Author Unknown

I used to have a comfort zone, where I knew I could not fail.
The same four walls and busy work were really more like jail.

I longed so much to do the things I'd never done before,
But I stayed inside my comfort zone and paced the same old floor.

I said it didn't matter, that I wasn't doing much.
I said I didn't care for things like diamonds, cars and such.

I claimed to be so busy with the things inside my zone,
But deep inside I longed for some victory of my own.

I couldn't let my life go by, just watching others win.
I held my breath and stepped outside to let the change begin.

I took a step and with a strain I'd never felt before.
I kissed my comfort zone goodbye and closed and locked the door.

If you are in a comfort zone, afraid to venture out,
Remember that all winners at one time were filled with doubt.

A step or two and words of praise can make your dreams come true.
So greet your future with a smile, SUCCESS IS THERE FOR YOU!