

Guideposts for Success: Lesson Plans and Activities

Developed by the Institute for Educational Leadership

LESSON 29: NO ONE DOES IT ON THEIR OWN

AT-A-GLANCE

Too often, students are told (by adults who have a tremendous impact on their lives) that their personal career goals are “not realistic.” This statement is usually made after a young adult talks of becoming a famous sports figure, or something that the adult identifies as being “out of reach” for the young adult for one reason or another. Rather than squelch a young person’s dream, no matter what it is, this activity is designed to help young people learn research and make informed decisions regarding their futures.

Icebreaker

"The more I help others to succeed, the more I succeed."

-Ray Kroc

Icebreaker Discussion

Why would someone believe that their own personal success was related to the success they helped others to achieve?

Lesson/Activity

Ask students to brainstorm a list of famous people. Encourage the list to include people in a wide variety of different occupational areas such as politics, entertainment, sports, business, etc. Write the list on the board or on chart paper.

Choose 3 of the names identified and ask students to now brainstorm all of the different jobs that are needed to allow each famous person to what they do best. Consider breaking up the groups into teams and have each team try to come up with the longest list for each of the 3 names.

For example: Johnny Depp - Actor

Johnny Depp could not be the great actor he is without the support he receives and depends on from many, many people. Some of the jobs that are necessary to support actors and actresses include, but are not limited to: manager, writer, producer, costume designer, stage director, makeup artist, hair stylist, personal assistant, lighting designer, caterer, voice coach, Web site creator, media manager, fitness trainer, financial planner, lawyer, photographer, security guard.....

Now, ask the following question: “Will every young person who dreams of becoming a famous ‘something’ be able to fulfill that dream?” The obvious answer is “no”—but that doesn’t mean that a supporting position within the industry someone has a deep passion for is off the table.

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This is an opportunity to also discuss what it takes to be successful, in any industry. How do students define success (consider verbal, written and pictorial descriptions)? What advice would they give their best friend if he/she suddenly decided to give up on their dreams?

Reflection

In what ways might a mentor help you to achieve your desired success?

Extension

Have students survey people of all ages and ask them to define success. Review all answers to discover if there are any correlations related to age or gender.