

JOBS OF THE FUTURE



INSIDE APPRENTICESHIPS

How to gain
real-world
experience
(AND GET PAID!)

Developed with the U.S. Department of Labor

"I'M GETTING PAID TO LEARN!"

You don't have to wait until you're a grown-up to start exploring careers—or earning money. BY GAIL O'CONNOR

Imagine you're 16 and deciding what courses you want to take in school. You have a choice: another class, or a job in a real workplace with perks like your own computer, cool coworkers, and a paycheck. Sound like a dream? It's real!

Apprenticeships are programs that combine job training with legit work experience. Youth apprenticeships in particular give teens a head start on a future career while still in high school. An apprenticeship is a way to learn—and earn at the same time—by getting job training, income, an industry-recognized credential (which shows employers you've mastered some serious skills), and even free college credits in some cases. "It's a great combination of real-world and traditional learning, and it gives students experience without locking them into any one path," says John Keckhaver, youth apprenticeship

coordinator in the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

Apprenticeships have been around a long time for skilled trade jobs like electrician, carpenter, and plumber. Now they're also pathways to careers in information technology (IT), cybersecurity, financial services, health care, engineering, and others. Youth apprenticeships build a foundation for workplace success and options after high school, such as college, full-time work, or a combination of both.

Of course, you may not know what you want to do when you grow up. (Totally fine—you're only in middle school!) What can you do now? Ask adults questions about their work, or do a "job shadow" spending a workday with someone. "Just enjoy learning and exploring, and notice what is interesting to you," says Keckhaver. Start by meeting the teen apprentices in this magazine!

"I FEEL AHEAD OF THE GAME"

Valerie Gallegos | age 16 | junior

Financial services apprentice

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

I went to a career fair because I wanted a summer job. I met with Geotech, a company that makes environmental equipment. They partner with CareerWise Colorado, an apprentice program. They had me come in to learn more, and I started apprenticing in financial services.

IS IT DIFFERENT FROM AN INTERNSHIP?

An internship is usually for a short period. My supervisors wanted me to understand that the apprenticeship program would be a longer-term



commitment and would help me gain skills and experience I'd keep building on while getting paid. I'm in a three-year program and currently in accounts payable, where I double-check payments and flag any mistakes. Next I'll train to work directly with vendors.

ARE YOU ABLE TO BALANCE SCHOOL AND YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Yes, because my apprenticeship hours are flexible. I'm a very involved student: I'm in student council, an honor student, and the captain for the varsity girls basketball team. From being around other adults, I've learned to use my phone calendar and reminders to keep on top of everything.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

After graduation I'd like to go to a four-year college and take accounting classes to expand on what I've learned in my apprenticeship. I'm so glad to have this experience on my résumé, get paid to do something I enjoy, and already be on a career path!

“I’M WIRING TRANSFORMERS AND I LOVE IT”

Morgan Zinn | age 18 | senior

Mechatronics apprentice

WHAT DREW YOU TO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

My school counselor knew I wasn’t a student who liked being in school for eight hours a day and suggested a youth apprenticeship program. I started with a youth apprenticeship in industrial maintenance at Kaysun, an injection molding company that makes complex plastic parts. I’ve moved up to registered apprentice there in mechatronics (a branch of engineering that focuses on electrical and mechanical systems).

WHAT’S SOMETHING YOU’RE PROUD OF?

I had just wired a transformer. I went to plug it in and found I had really weird, unsteady voltages. I thought my wiring was wrong, but the more I investigated, I found it was a faulty transformer. It was the first major troubleshooting I did by myself.



WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING AN APPRENTICE?

I’ve found out, very young, what I want to do with my life. I never dread getting up for work, even at 4:30 a.m. I’m having experiences that I can’t learn in the classroom. I love my job because I’m never doing the same thing two days in a row.

“I GET TO DESIGN GAS LINES”

Airianna Morquecho | age 18 | senior

Design apprentice

WHAT DO YOU DO AS AN APPRENTICE?

I work at We Energies, a big electrical and natural gas company. I work with five other apprentices and we get a lot of training, starting with little projects then moving to bigger ones, like designing new gas lines to people’s homes. I also get to go on site visits. One really fun one was helping to update electrical lines in a neighborhood known as Candy Cane Lane, to make sure there was enough power for everyone’s holiday lights!

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU LEARNED?

I’ve learned things that I can use forever, like how to send a good email, how to introduce myself, public speaking, professionalism, and being on time to work. Those lessons have



carried over to my life at home too—I started to take my chores more seriously, which my mom is really happy about.

DID YOU HAVE ANY FEARS GOING INTO YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

I worried about how it might affect my school life. But it turns out my grades have gotten higher! I’m more on time at school and with my deadlines because of how responsible I need to be for my job.

ANY PERKS?

Yes! I get to keep a hard hat, safety vest, safety glasses, steel-toed boots, and a bag.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR YOU?

I plan on attending a technical college while staying in the apprentice program, which is going to pay some of my tuition. Then I might transfer to a university. I’m the only girl apprentice here. I hope to convince more to check it out!

THE HOTTEST FIELDS RIGHT NOW

Today apprenticeships lead to many kinds of careers. Here are some of the fastest-growing fields that offer youth apprenticeships—maybe right near you!



Information Technology and Cybersecurity



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)



Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace



Finance and Business



Health Sciences



A/V Technology, Graphic Design, and Telecommunications



Energy



Architecture and Construction



Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources



Hospitality, Lodging, and Tourism



Transportation

TURN YOUR INTERESTS INTO A CAREER!

What occupations might be a match for you? Check the box beside every statement that describes you. They connect to careers that could be right for you, so look out for pathways (like related volunteer work or youth apprenticeships) to those professions!

Developing computer software sounds fun to me!

Computer programmer, web developer, IT technician



Making a new medicine to cure a disease would be amazing.

Pharmaceutical scientist, biologist, chemist, toxicologist



My dream is to write a book or play someday.

Novelist, TV writer, playwright, literary agent



I enjoy helping people work through their personal issues and challenges.

Psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, family therapist



I love to build stuff, like birdhouses and boxes.

Carpenter, contractor, advanced manufacturing engineer



Creating special effects for movies or video games seems super cool.

CGI artist, animator, 3D modeler



I'd like to be able to diagnose patients' illnesses and help them get better.

Nurse practitioner, doctor, nurse, physician assistant



I like being the boss.

Entrepreneur, manager, supervisor



I love being around younger kids and teaching them new things.

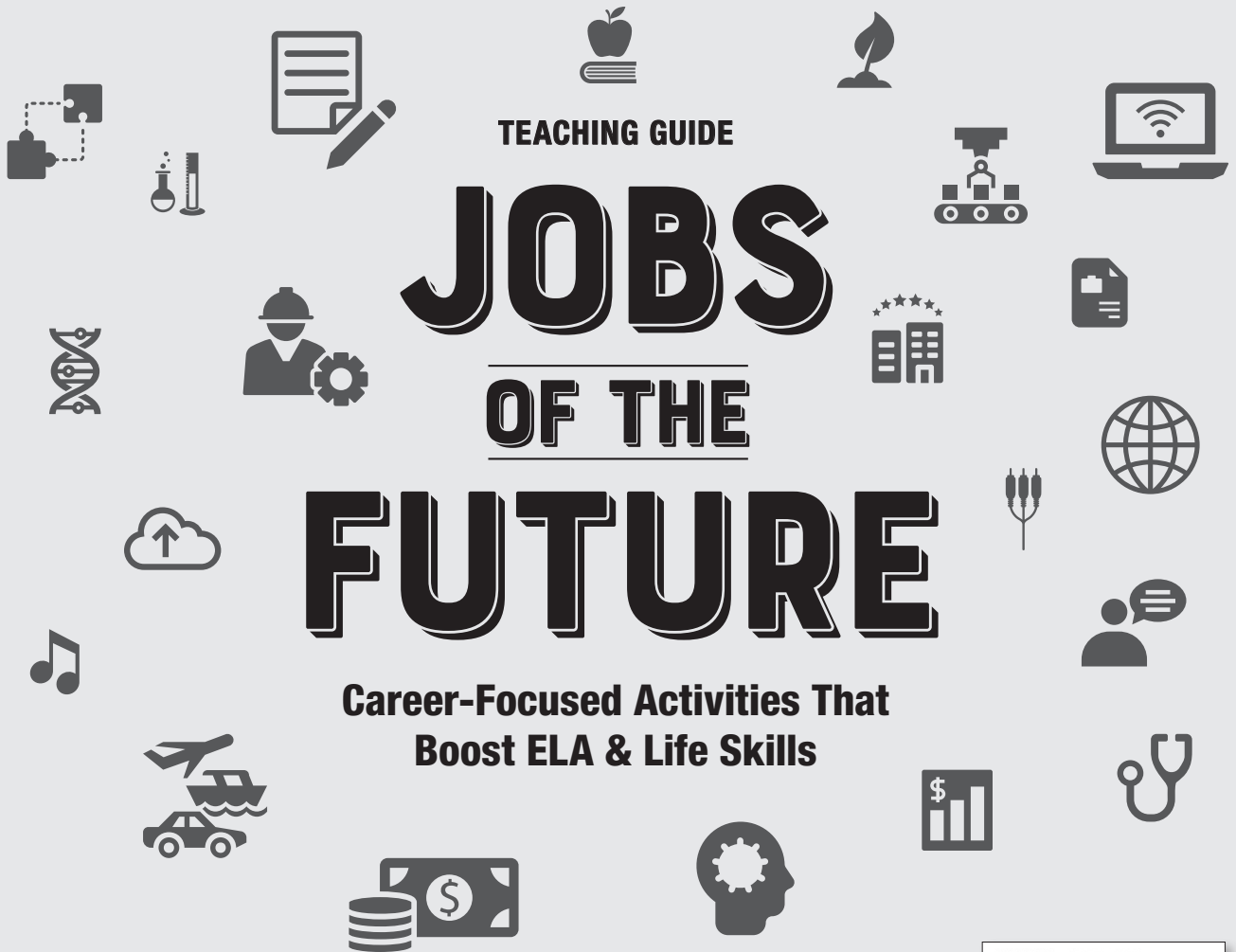
Teacher, school counselor, health educator, childcare worker



I have a killer playlist—and I love music enough to make it a whole career.

Singer, composer, music teacher, music therapist, DJ





Dear Teacher,

It's never too early to start your students thinking about their future! Developed with Scholastic and the U.S. Department of Labor, these materials will prepare your middle school students for hands-on career opportunities they can take advantage of in high school.

Use the standards-supported lessons, activity sheets, and *Jobs of the Future* student magazine to open their eyes to youth apprenticeships. Then distribute the Family Sheet for an at-home career activity!

Get more lessons at [scholastic.com/apprenticeship](https://www.scholastic.com/apprenticeship).



**Class set of
student
magazines!**

JOBS THEN VERSUS NOW

Explore how occupations change over time and how to develop skills for jobs of the future.

Objective

Students will analyze the main ideas in the magazine article and define career-related vocabulary. They will discuss what they learned, citing specific evidence from the text to support their ideas.

Time

90 minutes (over two class periods)

Materials

- 40 prepared index cards
- *Jobs of the Future* student magazine
- Discover Apprenticeships activity sheet
- Make a Career Match activity sheet

Part 1

1 Set up On index cards, write 20 traditional jobs and 20 related modern jobs. (See chart below.) For an additional challenge, you may provide more than one job match (e.g., human computer can match with computer programmer and software developer). Create five stations and place four traditional-job cards at each station.

2 Hand out index cards of modern jobs so that each student has one or more. Instruct them to rotate through the stations matching the traditional jobs with the modern jobs that replaced them.

3 Discuss the activity. Point out that jobs evolve over time to reflect society's needs and technology. Note that today's cutting-edge jobs may soon be replaced with jobs we haven't even thought of yet!

4 Distribute the *Jobs of the Future* magazine for students to read the "I'm Getting Paid to Learn!" article.

5 Hand out the Discover Apprenticeships activity sheet to the class. When complete, have students compare their definitions of key vocabulary to the actual definitions:

- **apprenticeship** *a career pathway that provides paid work experience, specialized instruction, and an industry-recognized credential. Youth apprenticeships are designed for high school juniors or seniors to prepare them for success in life after high school.*
- **occupation** *a job or profession*
- **career** *a profession that one trains for and commits to for a long period of time*

Answers 1. To give teens paid work experience, specialized instruction, and a credential that will prepare them for careers. **2.** Apprenticeships, once for jobs in skilled trades, now exist for occupations in almost every field. **3.** Students can learn occupations that appeal to them while in high school, and have a foundation for a career or enrolling in further education. **4.** Answers will vary.

Part 2

1 Have students take the Turn Your Interests Into a Career! assessment in the magazine. Discuss results.

2 Distribute the Make a Career Match activity sheet. (**Answers** Jayden: marketing; Mia: cybersecurity; Christina: health care.)

Examples of traditional jobs and their modern-day counterparts

TRADITIONAL JOB	MODERN JOB
human computer	computer programmer
switchboard operator	coder
cashier	automated checkout service technician
taxi driver	driverless-car technician
ice cutter	refrigeration technician
party host	corporate event planner
armor maker	fashion designer
court jester	stand-up comedian
lamplighter	electrician
automobile assembler	automotive manufacturing engineer

TRADITIONAL JOB	MODERN JOB
film projectionist	digital projectionist
telegraph operator	software developer
elevator operator	elevator technician
quarryman	construction equipment operator
typesetter	web developer
leech collector	vaccine researcher
VCR repair person	streaming software engineer
town crier	social media manager
file clerk	IT technician
bowling pin setter	bowling maintenance technician

Name _____

DISCOVER APPRENTICESHIPS

Read the article and career profiles in the *Jobs of the Future* magazine. Then answer the questions below. Keep in mind the following things as you read:

- Pay attention to keywords and use context clues to define them.
- Aim to identify the main idea(s) and supporting details.
- Try to summarize each section in your head to check for understanding.

Keyword	How would you define this term in your own words?
apprenticeship	
occupation	
career	

1. What is the purpose of a youth apprenticeship?

2. How have traditional apprenticeships evolved to reflect the modern world?

3. In what ways do youth apprenticeships provide valuable opportunities for students?

4. Why is it important to explore multiple careers?

Name _____

MAKE A CAREER MATCH

Read each person's skills and interests along with the apprenticeship profiles to determine which program would be the best fit for each student. Be prepared to explain your thinking.

JAYDEN

Jayden isn't sure what his dream job is but wants to learn about the business world. He loves to interact with people and enjoys public speaking. His hobbies showcase his creativity and artistic flair.

APPRENTICESHIP PROFILE Ready to learn about health care?

Seeking a self-motivated high school student with solid communication skills and an interest in health. Will work with a mentor to learn all aspects of patient care, including designing treatment plans.

MIA

Mia is a math whiz who loves computer games. She recently learned how to code and is interested in exploring jobs that involve programming. She likes coming up with new ideas and solving problems.

APPRENTICESHIP PROFILE Junior marketers wanted

Open to rising juniors (16 and older). Position offers a unique opportunity to rotate through various departments for on-site training. Ideal for a creative self-starter eager to contribute to a variety of projects. Will earn a marketing certificate.

CHRISTINA

Christina's favorite subject is science. She is fascinated with how the human body works and excels at soccer and basketball. She prefers hands-on activities and loves to tutor younger kids in her spare time.

APPRENTICESHIP PROFILE Seeking cybersecurity sleuth

Looking for a high school junior or senior who wants to learn about cyberattacks and how to design security solutions. Great training plus work experience to build information technology skills in a fun, fast-paced work setting.

PART 2

On a separate piece of paper, use your critical-thinking and persuasive writing skills to build a case for why each student is best matched with the program you selected.

INTRODUCING APPRENTICESHIPS

Use the interview and presentation lesson to **MAKE CAREER EXPLORATION FUN!**

Engage your students' families in conversations about **APPRENTICESHIPS**

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Photography by Hero Images



Detach this cover for the **FAMILY ACTIVITY SHEETS**

Get more materials at scholastic.com/apprenticeship.

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APPRENTICESHIP.GOV

BRINGING CAREERS TO THE CLASSROOM

Open students' eyes to a world of occupations with an interview project they'll share in class.

Objective

Students will present research findings in the form of an oral report, using facts, quotes, and detailed examples to support their main points.

Time

90 minutes (over two class periods)

Materials

- Prep for Your Interview activity sheet
- Prep for Your Presentation activity sheet



Part 1

1 Ask students what they want to do tomorrow. Then ask: How about in 10 years? Explain that it's easier to answer questions about tomorrow because they're familiar with those options. It's possible to uncover answers about the future. Explain that students will interview someone about their job and what led them to it (such as doing an apprenticeship and/or continuing their education) to learn more about careers.

2 Have students list three people, in order of preference, in their family, school, or community to interview. Note that they will need a parent's permission to interview people in the community.

3 Distribute the Prep for Your Interview activity sheet. Pair students to work.

4 Ask students to schedule a time and place for their interviews and decide how they will take notes (recorder or paper).

5 Tell students they will use their interviews to create an oral report. Give an overview of project stages and deadlines.

Part 2

1 Once students have completed their interviews, hand out the Prep for Your Presentation activity sheet. Explain that organizing information in a focused and streamlined way helps to maximize the effectiveness of a report or presentation.

2 Emphasize the importance of paraphrasing findings to concisely communicate key points. Confer with students to check on their progress.

3 Have students present their oral reports to the class or to small groups. Encourage students in the audience to ask focused questions based on what they heard.

Extension

If time allows, invite some of the students' interview subjects to class and ask them to share what they do in their jobs. Lead a class discussion and encourage students to ask additional questions of the professionals.

Name _____

PREP FOR YOUR INTERVIEW



Review the questions below and add your own as you prepare to interview your subject. Check out the tips and tricks below, then use a second sheet of paper to capture your subject's responses.

GATHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- What is your name and job title/occupation?
- What are some qualifications for your job? Did you need special credentials? Did you train or apprentice with an experienced mentor who guided you? How did that help?
- Can you describe what a typical day in your job involves?

DIG FOR DETAILS

Develop more personalized questions about your interview subject's unique work experience and career path.

- Example: Can you describe the career path that led you to the position you have today?

Write your own questions below:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

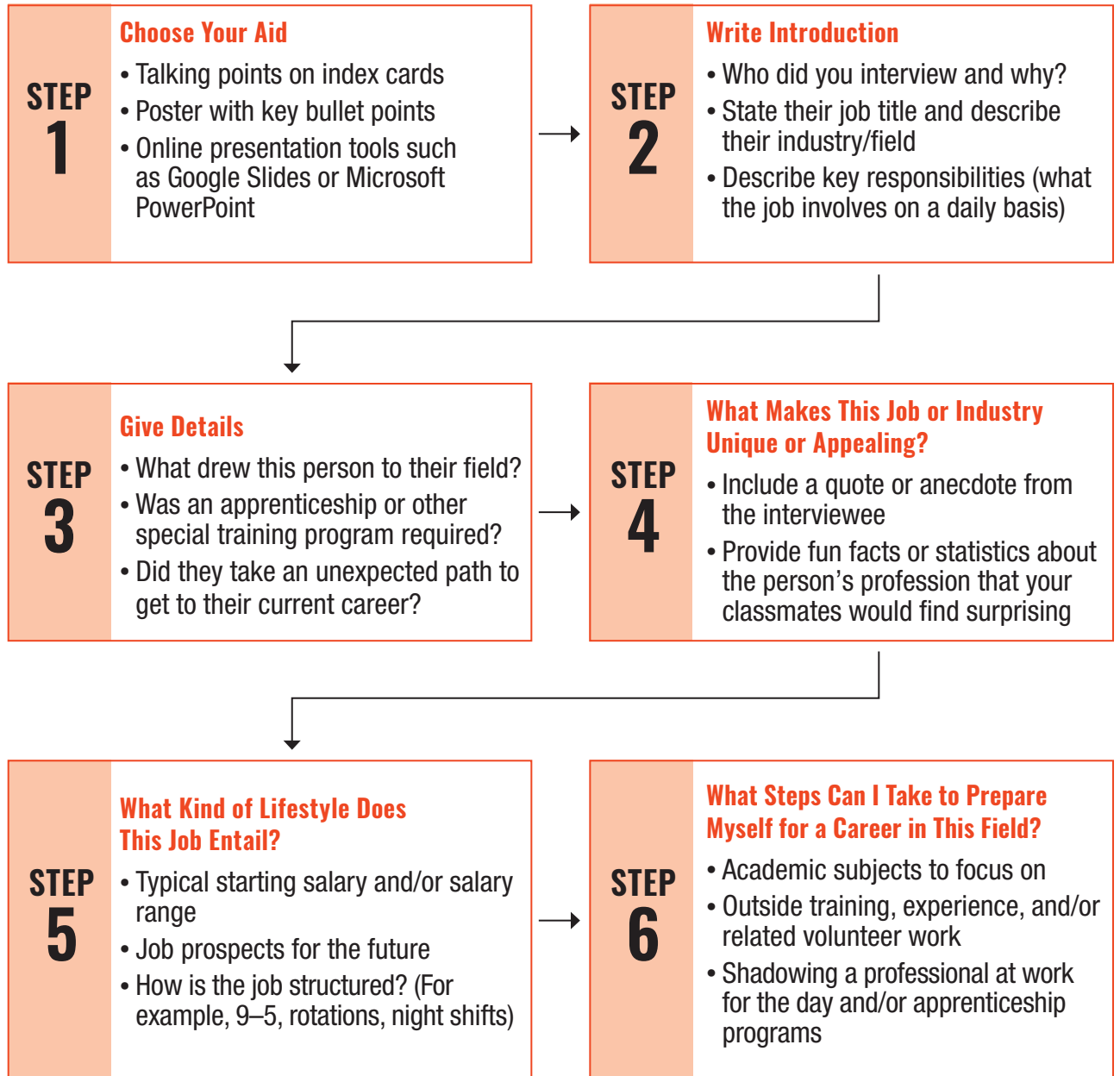
4. _____

INTERVIEW TIPS AND TRICKS

- Consider where you'll hold the interview, ideally in a quiet place without distractions.
- Order your questions with the most essential ones first so you're sure to get the information you need before you run out of time or forget!
- Come prepared with your written questions, but be willing to go off script. Your subject may say something super interesting that you didn't even think to ask about!
- If you want to record your interview, ask your subject's permission first.
- Think of your interview as a conversation. Relax and be sure to pause between questions so that answers can flow naturally.

PREP FOR YOUR PRESENTATION

Organize the information from your interview in a streamlined way so your classmates can learn from what you have to say.



KEEP IN MIND...

- What visuals will you use to support your presentation?
- What info do you want to spotlight to spark interest in this profession?

LESSON | BUILDING A ROAD MAP

Students don't have to wait until they are adults to start cultivating a career path—help them envision their future now with a hands-on creative project.

Objective

Students will define and organize career skills and interests using a graphic, and apply their learning to create a dream board project.

Time

45–75 minutes

Materials

- Make Your Own Dream Board! activity sheet
- poster board
- scissors
- glue
- tape
- markers
- magazines, newspapers



Instructions

1 Tell students that they possess some skills that they can use in future jobs and apprenticeships. Ask them to reflect on what those skills may be.

2 Explain that hiring managers want job candidates with hard skills and soft skills. Define hard skills as job-specific skills and knowledge obtained through school or work experience like apprenticeships (e.g., proficiency in Spanish, coding, operating specific machines).

3 Define soft skills as transferable skills related to behaviors that focus on interacting effectively with people professionally. Emphasize how research shows that soft skills such as adaptability, the ability to work in teams, and decision-making are key to success in almost every workplace.

4 Hold a class discussion reflecting on the skills students learned were required in the careers, jobs, and apprenticeships they researched in the Find Your “Right Now” Job activity. Have them elaborate on why these skills are important and identify soft skills that would support each career.

5 Ask students to brainstorm jobs that kids their age can do now to support future jobs and careers. Chart these on the board, then work as a class to come up with skills that match each job.

6 Distribute the Make Your Own Dream Board! activity sheet and instruct students to prepare to build their dream boards by identifying their skills and interests. Have students gather in pairs or groups to discuss discoveries they've made.

7 Provide time for students to complete their culminating project: creating a dream board spotlighting their top skills and interests as well as titles of possible jobs and careers. Share completed dream boards during a gallery walk.

Extension

Using the completed Find Your “Right Now” Job sheets, have students hold mock interviews with one another, role-playing how they would present marketable qualities to a hiring manager. Have them draw from work experience gained through a hypothetical job or a youth apprenticeship.

Name _____

MAKE YOUR OWN DREAM BOARD!

This is your planning sheet for developing an inspirational collage that reflects your vision for the future. (Create your collage on separate paper or a poster board.)

STEP 1

- In the first column, write skills that you've relied on while tackling chores at home and responsibilities at school. Include skills you've gained from small jobs or community service you've done so far!
- In the second column, write down things you love to do or would like to learn more about.

SKILLS (SOFT AND HARD)	INTERESTS AND PASSIONS



STEP 2

- Write two or three career-related goals, including jobs that seem like a good fit and apprenticeships you'd like to explore.
- Use magazines, newspapers, or the internet to find images that represent your goals or inspire you in some way.



STEP 3

- Brainstorm words that help motivate you to achieve your goals. In addition to your skills and passions, these words could include job titles, fields of interest, or career-related words you find empowering.
- Cut or print out words, or handwrite them.

STEP 4

Build your dream board by creating an inspiring collage of words and images on your poster board.