

Making Career Choices

Essential Questions

What factors affect the career choices I will make? How can I identify unique aspects of my personality or background that may align to a specific career? How should I go about making decisions about college and career?

Lesson Rationale

Students exploring college and career options need information about different career possibilities as well as models for decision making that identify and account for benefits and costs of different academic and career choices.

CCRS Standards	CCTC Standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it • Integrate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem. • Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason. • Use critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. • Work productively in teams. • Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively

Academic Skills	Sector-Focused Content (This lesson is focused on college and career exploration)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify patterns • Categorize information • Make and support inferences • Analyze & synthesize information from multiple texts • Relate to information from a text • Analyze the causes and effects of decisions • Generate questions about a topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional roles and responsibilities • Benefits and disadvantages of specific careers and choices within careers • Role of personal considerations in career choices

Bridge to College and Careers: Making Career Choices

Professional/Affective Skills	Academic Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work productively as a member of a team (or with a partner) • Present and share work in small and large groups • Identify and reflect upon own considerations in decision making • Prioritize factors influencing decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key vocabulary • Characteristics of different types of texts

Evidence of Learning	Assessment
Career and College Narrative Chart Personal Career Chart	Collect or spot check students' personal charts to check for concept mastery and career charts to check for reading comprehension and ability to infer and make connections between texts

Materials & Resources
Lesson handouts and instructions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Financial Advisor, Ricardo Blanco,” <i>Gig. Business Career Case Studies</i> http://bit.ly/1F9Bdym • “Bringing an Innovative Razor to the Masses,” <i>NYT. Business Career Case Studies</i> http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/29/business/smallbusiness/29sbiz.html • “You have to Give up Something,” <i>Nightshift NYC. Health Career Case Studies</i> http://bit.ly/1EbqPCI • “Bricklayer’s Boy,” Alfred Lubrano http://www.cabrillo.edu/academics/english/100resources/%27Bricklayer%27s%20Boy%27.pdf • “Follow Your Passion,” Johnnetta B. Cole http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/col0int-4 • Career Choices and Influences Chart • Personal Influences Career Planning Guide • Tower Climbing Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2A_h2AjJaMw

Background information: <i>(What previous learning does this connect to?)</i>
Students have already performed a close reading activity using at least one of the college and career narratives, as part of class work in the first few weeks of the class. This activity is the third transitions workshop that advisors facilitate in the Bridge to College and Careers Program classroom. As a next step, students will begin work on their career research project.

Lesson Steps

Introduction: Whole Class (15 minutes) Video and Discussion

- Explain to students that you are going to ask them to watch a movie of a unique job situation. Ask them to think about what might influence someone to choose tower climbing as a career path while they watch the movie.
- View the tower climbing video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2A_h2AjJaMw
- When the movie is done, ask students to write for 2 minutes on the following:

List the factors (personal, academic, and/or professional) that lead someone to choose tower climbing as a career.

- Ask students to share some of their ideas in a short whole-class discussion. You can also ask them what they think the most important questions are to ask themselves about their own career choices.

Group Activity (45 minutes) Career Choices and Influences Reading Chart

- Assign students to small groups or pairs.
- Ask them to take out the following readings: Bricklayer's Boy, Follow your Passion, & sector focused career readings: "You Have to Give Up Something," "Bringing an Innovative Razor to the Masses," and "Financial Advisor."
- Distribute the career choices and influences chart:

Career and College Reading Title	What is the name of the individual involved?	Factors/Considerations	Key Sacrifices and/or Decisions	Benefits
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- Ask students to work in groups to complete the chart. They will need to review each of the readings to uncover information about factors influencing each individual's career path and determine the sacrifices and benefits associated with specific career decisions.
- Once the students complete the chart, assign each group to report out and post on chart paper information they uncovered on one reading or individual.
- Ask all students to review the shared charts and decide if any information is missing. Missing information can be added with sticky notes.
- Students add to their own charts as needed based on information presented by groups.
- Ask students to write an individual response to questions 2 and 3 on the Career Choices and Influences Chart.

Group Discussion (25 minutes) Creating Your Own Career Pathways Exploration Chart

This leap is probably the most difficult part of the lesson. Encourage students to be creative about their categories.

- Ask students to share their responses to #2 and 3 with their group and as a group come up with a set of important categories to consider when exploring a career path. They can use the categories from the reading guide in the prior activity, or add to them with their own ideas.
- Provide them with the blank Career Choices and Influences Student Chart to fill in the categories they decide on as a group.
- Ask each group to share its categories. Record them all on the board as they share so that students can revise any sections that they wish.

Individual Writing and Exploration (15 minutes)

- Using the chart they created, ask students to complete their own self-analysis.
- When students are finished, you can ask them to share challenges or surprises they uncovered during the process and complete the priority chart as time allows.
- Ask students to keep the chart to use in future career workshops, or collect it to review.

Review/Reflection (10-15 minutes)

- Remind students that they have started generating questions about career and college planning. Project or distribute the list. Ask students to add new questions to the list, now that they have completed this activity. Record the questions to type up for future workshops.

Extensions & Content Connections

Math: Create weights for each career consideration factor and write equations.

College & Career Exploration: Continue to refer to build upon the list of student-generated questions about college and career planning

Career Choices and Influences

Use the college and career readings to reflect on the considerations and sacrifices or key decisions that may influence someone's career path. What are the benefits of these decisions? You may need to make inference based on the reading to complete each category below.

Title of Reading(s):		
Personal & Career Considerations	Sacrifices/Key Decisions	Benefits/Payoff

Personal Career Choices and Influences

Create your own chart identifying the factors and considerations that will affect your career plan. What important decisions will you need to make? What sacrifices might be involved? What benefits?

Personal & Career Considerations	Sacrifices or Key Decisions I will have to make	Benefits/Payoff I visualize in the short term and long term

What other information do you need to make informed career and college choices? Write down as many ideas and questions as you have.