

# 2

## Consider Post-School Options

### TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze advantages and disadvantages of four post-school career options.

### RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Young people often think that their options after completing high school are limited to either going to college or getting a job. They need to be thoroughly familiar with a wide variety of options in order to prepare for their future. This includes going to work, going through training or going to college. It is important to choose an option early in order to plan ahead.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

### ❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

I know what I want to do after graduation . . .

### ❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"I want to set goals for after graduation because \_\_\_\_."

### ❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will review four options that are available after high school."

### ❑ STEP 4: Activity - 10 Minutes

Ask students to name the post-school options they feel they have at this point and then summarize the list. Using a screen image, go over the handout **Train & Prepare for a Job**. Have students take turns reading the first three paragraphs. Stimulate an interactive discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of each option: high school to work; training to work; community college to work; and four-year college to work.

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LIFE MANAGEMENT: Unit 3

LESSON 2

Train & Prepare for a Job

There are options for each of you when choosing a career. Some of you will choose to find a job right after graduating. This choice will allow you to earn and save money at a young age. By beginning to work at a young age, you will move up in your job. You also will receive raises along the way. This means that at first you will have higher pay than people who are graduating from training or college.


Some of you will choose to go into a training program to prepare for a job. Training programs can last for two months to two years. By completing a training program you will learn skills and will start working at a higher wage. However, you will earn little or no money while in training.

Another option is to complete a college program. However, this will keep you from earning money immediately. In fact, to go to college, many of you will need to borrow money to pay the expenses. After finishing college, you will make more money, but you may be in debt. In addition, you will be at least four years behind your friends who began to work after high school. They may have saved for a car and house before you even begin to work.

Activity: The Game of Life

**STEP 1:** To play **"The Game of Life,"** follow these directions:  
To find out what level of education and how much money you will receive, roll the dice and circle the education level you will have according to the list below.

1 & 2 = High School Diploma, receive - \$1000  
3 & 4 = One-Year Training Certificate, receive - \$500  
5 = Two-Year Associate Degree (AA), receive - \$0  
6 = Four-Year Bachelor Degree (BA), pay the bank - \$300



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### □ STEP 5: Activity - 25 Minutes

After students number off by fours, group them by number. Ask them to list five or more advantages to one of the following topics: going from high school to work; completing training and then going to work; going to a two- year community college and then to work; and going to a four-year college and then to work. After ten minutes have

groups report on their lists of advantages and disadvantages. Summarize and point out that it is up to each person to choose the best option. Encourage discussion.

### □ STEP 6: Activity - 10 Minutes

Have each student roll a die to determine their educational level and the amount of money they will receive. Pay each student with the paper money from Lesson 1. Remind students to keep their money safe as it is money they will use throughout the next several lessons in **The Game of Life**. Also, ask them to remember the number they rolled, as they will use it in Lesson 3. At the end of the lesson, have students mark the square labeled, *Train & Prepare for a Job*, on **The Game of Life**.

### □ STEP 7: Evaluate Outcomes

The option I am most interested in is "\_\_\_\_\_."

### □ STEP 8: Connecting Activity

Ask three adults which option they considered while they were still in college after they finished high school and if they would make that same decision today.

## KEY WORDS

options

prepare

opportunity

advance

### MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handout: **Train & Prepare for a Job**, page 92.
- Prepare a screen image of the handout.
- Prepare for group activity.
- Prepare paper money to pay students for their level of education.

### SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Reading, Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Decision Making, Reasoning
- Personal Qualities: Responsibility, Sociability, Self-Management