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Debate the Importance of Education for Your Future

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze information about the lifetime benefits of staying in school and earning a high school diploma.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Students with mild disabilities drop out of school at a rate of 31% to 54%, which is significantly greater than the 25% to 30% rate for more typical youth. Dropping out works in direct opposition to transition success. One way to motivate students to stay in school is to help them understand the benefits and negative consequences of their stay-in-school-choices and provide them with transition skills.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

In my lifetime I can earn . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"If I knew I could earn a million dollars, I would ____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will learn that staying in school and earning a high school diploma will help you earn a million dollars."

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PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 3 LESSON 1

FACT SHEET

How much is high school worth?

How Much Money Will You Make in Your Lifetime?

1. High School Graduates on average will earn . . . \$1,200,000.00
2. High School drop out will earn . . . \$648,000.00
3. How much money will a high school dropout lose?
Subtract 1,200,000 - 648,000 = \$_____

How much is your high school education worth?

4. How much is each year of high school worth?
Divide 1,200,000 by 4 = \$_____
5. How much is each day worth?
Multiply 4 years by 180 days = _____ days
Divide 1,200,000 by 720 = \$_____
6. How much is each hour worth?
Multiply 720 days by 8 hours = _____ hours
Divide 1,200,000 by 4,320 = \$_____

*This information is based on four years of high school, 180 days per year and 8 hours per day, according to the most current Census Bureau Report.

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❑ STEP 4: Activity - 15 Minutes

To introduce Unit 4, go over the **Student Letter** and discuss the major topic areas of this unit. Present the **Fact Sheet**. Go over items 1 and 2 of the **Fact Sheet** and have students work in pairs to compute the answers. After seven minutes go over the answers and discuss them with the class. Help students see how much their time is worth.

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PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 3 LESSON 1

STAY IN SCHOOL

Why is it important to stay in school and earn your high school diploma? What will it do for your future? How will you feel about yourself? Do most people earn a diploma? What do you family and friends say about staying in school?

Read the two reasons for staying in school listed below. With your partner, discuss the topic, "Why stay in school?" and write as many reasons you can on the lines below.

1. If you stay in school and get a diploma, you will earn over one million dollars (\$1,200,000) in your lifetime.
2. Most jobs require at least a high school diploma. If you have a high school diploma, you will be qualified for more jobs.

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

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❑ STEP 5: Activity - 30 Minutes

Break into groups of four. Split into teams of two pairs within each group for a debate on these topics: stay in school and get a

diploma or drop out of school now and get a job. Using the debate guides **Stay in School** and **Drop out and Work**, give each set of pairs five minutes to prepare a defense for one topic. Explain that one team talks at a time and that teams may take notes. Flip a coin to see who goes first. Each pair has two two-minute rounds for their defense. Keep time.

After all pairs have had two rounds, select two pairs to debate both topics in front of the class. When the debate is over, ask for a show of hands to determine which team the was most convincing. Emphasize strengths of each team. Conclude with a discussion by asking: 1) How much money do you want to earn in your lifetime? 2) How did the debate help you understand the importance of getting a diploma? 3) How does this debate affect the decisions you will make about staying in school?

□ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

Show a high school diploma and ask: What difference will a diploma make in your life?

□ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Have students use the information on the fact sheet to compute the amount of money they have earned so far this week by staying in school.



PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: UNIT 3
LESSON 1

DROP OUT AND WORK

Why would someone choose to drop out of school and go to work? What are the advantages of dropping out and working now? As a dropout you will earn six hundred thousand dollars (\$648,000) in your lifetime. What will dropping out do for your future? How will you feel about your self? Do you think most people earn a diploma? What would your family and friends say about dropping out of school?

Read the two reasons for dropping out of school listed below. With your partner discuss the topic, "Why drop out and work," and write as many reasons as you can on the lines below.

1. If you drop out of school and work now you will earn over six hundred thousand dollars (\$648,000) in your lifetime.
2. If you work full-time now, you can buy clothes, go out to dinner, and save for a car.

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

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KEY WORDS

diploma

million
defend

drop out

earn
debate

graduate

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **Student Letter**, page 105; **Fact Sheet**, page 106; **Stay in School**, page 107; **Drop out and Work**, page 108.
- Prepare to explain the **Fact Sheet**.
- Prepare for debate activity. Bring in a high school diploma.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Creative Thinking, Decision Making, Problem Solving, Reasoning
- Personal Qualities: Sociability, Self-Management, Integrity/Honesty, Self-Esteem.