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Learn the Meaning and Value of Work

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze various concepts related to work and recognize their value.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

It is important that young people choose a career path in which they will be happy and fulfilled. To do this, they must know the difference between a job and a career and recognize the importance of work over a lifetime. This lesson discusses the differences between jobs and careers.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

Work is a part of life because . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"The career I choose, needs to be ____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will participate in activities that will show you how work makes life more meaningful."

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PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 2 Lesson 4

WHAT IS WORK?

- What is work?
A way to make a living and something we do because we enjoy the activity.
- What is the difference between a career and a job?
Lifetime work versus a short-term job.
- What does occupation mean?
Another word for job.
- How much time does the average person spend working in a lifetime?
A person who works full time for 40 years at 40 hours per week at 50 weeks per year will spend 80,000 hours at work. Compare with 17,000 hours in school between kindergarten and high school graduation.
- How many times do you think most people change jobs in their lifetime?
Most people will change jobs between 1 and 10 times.
- Is it OK to change jobs and careers?
As a young person it may not be possible to choose only one lifetime career. It is important to be ready to change careers as the world of work changes.

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may start out in a job to make money and get experience, it is important to choose a career you love. Once you are in your career you may change jobs as you move up the career ladder. Emphasize the importance of choosing the right career because most people spend most of their lifetime working.

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PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 2 LESSON 4

The Meaning of Work

Quote List

- "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."
Confucius
- "Find a job that makes you happy, and don't stop looking until you find it."
Clayton
- "Work is love made visible."
Kahlil Gibran
- "A working person is a happy person."
Unknown
- "To love what you do and feel that it matters - how could anything be more fun."
Graham
- "Find pleasure in your work, or you will not find pleasure."
Rettig

Discuss and answer the following questions with your group.

1. What do these quotes say about a job or work?
2. How do these quotes support the idea that we should find pleasure or happiness in our work?
3. Explain why you agree or disagree with the meaning of these quotes.

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❑ STEP 4: Activity - 15 Minutes

Go over the **What Is Work?** question sheet using a screen image. Have students discuss each question in pairs before showing the answers on the screen image. Although you

❑ STEP 5: Activity - 30 Minutes

Divide students into groups of three. Assign each group one quote on a 3" x 5" card from the handout **The Meaning of Work**. Groups have 15 minutes to discuss and answer the three questions at the bottom of the handout. One person from each group

then reads the quote and briefly summarizes the group's discussion.

❑ **STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes**

Work is important in my life because "_____."

❑ **STEP 7: Connecting Activity**

1. Tell students to find two people who love their career and be prepared to describe each

person's career and why they love it.

2. Have students do online searches to determine how many times people change jobs in specific career fields (e.g., nurses, mechanics, secretaries, teachers).

3. You also may want to invite a speaker from the Employment Development Department (EDD) to talk about careers and the services that are offered through EDD.

KEY WORDS

career job	visible profession	occupation business	work livelihood	pleasure employment
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MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **What Is Work**, page 62; **The Meaning of Work**, page 63.
- Prepare discussion about working using the screen image **What Is Work?**. Emphasize the difference between a job and a career: A job is a short-term way to make money. A career is a long-term vision or goal toward lifelong work.
- Become familiar with the quotes on the handout.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Listening, Math, Speaking, Writing
- Thinking Skills: Decision-Making, Reasoning
- Personal Qualities: Sociability, Self-Esteem