

16 Set Goals to Develop Your Career Ladder

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will set goals and begin to develop a career ladder.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

As students begin to make decisions about their future career, they can develop a career ladder showing the steps they will take to become successful in a career.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

Climbing the steps of a ladder is like . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"To enter my career, I will ____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will set goals to begin your career ladder."

glued onto heavy paper. Students glue the popsicle sticks on the paper in the shape of a ladder leaving space between the rungs to write words and glue magazine pictures in a collage style.

Starting with the bottom rung, students show (using words or pictures) where they are and what they are doing now as it relates to their long-term career goal. On the second rung from the bottom, students show what they want to be doing in one year. On the third rung they show what they want to be doing in two years. Going up to the next rung they show their desired activities for five years from now and on the next rung, ten years from now.

152

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 3 LESSON 16

One Rung at a Time

What is a career ladder? Developing your career ladder gives you control of your future. Your career ladder tells you decide where you want to be in your career at future points in time. For example, Jeff wants to be a master mechanic for a Ford dealership. He will start preparing for this career in high school. We will assume that Jeff starts his first job at a minimum wage of \$8.00 an hour. Here are the steps up the ladder that Jeff has planned:

Jeff's Career Ladder

- ↔ **Master Mechanic - Twenty years after graduation**
Become a Master Mechanic of the local Ford dealership
Be in charge of other mechanics in the dealership
Diagnose problems and check other mechanic's work
Making seven times minimum wage per hour
- ↑ **Mechanic - Ten years after graduation**
Works under a master mechanic at the local Ford dealership
Have all work meet highest standards
Attend all company trainings to improve skills
Making three times minimum wage per hour
- ↑ **Mechanic helper - Five years after graduation**
Work with and learn from a master mechanic
Have all work done correctly when checked by the master mechanic
Become a trainee at the local Ford dealership
Making two times minimum wage per hour
- ↑ **Mechanic trainee - First year after graduation**
Complete a training program at the local community college
Work part time at a tune-up shop while attending training class
Making minimum wage
- ↑ **High School Student - Now**
Graduate from high school
Take auto and math classes to prepare for auto career
- ↑ **START HERE**
Jeff starts here to climb the ladder. Each section describes the rung and the goals he must accomplish to go to the next rung.

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152

❑ STEP 4: Activity - 20 Minutes

Go over the handout **One Rung at a Time**, with the class. Introduce the topics of minimum wage and labor laws. After a short discussion, have students make a picture version of their own career ladders using popsicle sticks

153

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Unit 3 LESSON 16

Career Ladder Goal Sheet

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Describe each rung of your career ladder. Then write the goal you need to set for each rung. For example, if rung #1 is "Graduate from high school," you would set a goal such as: "I will get passing grades in all my classes by turning in all my work and preparing for my tests." Timeline: "I will do this by June: _____"

Rung #1: _____
1st Goal: _____
Timeline: _____

Rung #2: _____
2nd Goal: _____
Timeline: _____

Rung #3: _____
3rd Goal: _____
Timeline: _____

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153

□ STEP 5: Activity - 25 Minutes

Tell students about your career ladder and how you became a teacher. Use your own ladder to show the steps you took. Go over the **Career Ladder Goal Sheet** to explain the next activity.

Have students brainstorm with a partner to complete the **Career Ladder Goal Sheet**. After all pairs have completed this activity, ask for volunteers to share with the class. Emphasize the importance of looking into the future and setting goals.

□ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Interview someone who is already working in the career you are considering. Find out about the steps they took to reach their career goal.

Have students compute hourly wage to week, month, year salary and lifetime earnings. Refer them to the Department of Labor website and have them look up the current minimum wage for their state.

(<http://dol.gov/whd/minwage/America>)

□ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

One rung of my career ladder is “_____.”

KEY WORDS

career ladder

rung

incremental steps

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **One Rung at a Time**, page 152; **Career Ladder Goal Sheet**, page 153.
- Familiarize yourself with the concept of career ladders using the handouts. Make a career ladder for yourself.
- Prepare to discuss career ladders and the importance of short- and long-term goals.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Listening, Math, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Creative Thinking, Decision-Making, Problem-Solving, Reasoning
- Personal Qualities: Responsibility, Self-Management