CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 12-27 ▲ REFINING YOUR CAREER FOCUS

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Review of early high school Career Interest Inventory.
* Expand the online career exploration tools students have experienced.
* Relate the summary of the Career Interest Inventory to career and technical pathways.
* Connect Career Focus with Personalized Pathway.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handout:**
* Journal Page
* **Computer with access to the internet and projection capabilities** to display:
* Picking a College Major for the Highest Future Income Potential

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwitRltCfyc>

* 10 Majors with Highest Unemployment Rate

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=fvwp&v=HGzkhhKlm7c&NR=1>

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Conduct a short assessment with students** by asking how many students have picked their career path and know what college major will fulfill that goal. Put that percentage of students on the board for the closing discussion.
2. **Ask students to brainstorm the reasons one should choose a specific job**, occupation or career. Record the list so this can be part of the later discussion. Encourage students to think about:

* The match between interests/skills/ and careers,
* Quality of life issues,
* Overall life income and earning power, and
* Whether jobs in an area are growing or decreasing.

1. **Now ask students to individually rate their projected occupational or career choices** on the factors students identified on a scale of 1 to 5.

* One = Great match
* Two = Acceptable match
* Three = Neutral match
* Four = Less than acceptable match
* Five = Little match

After students have averaged the factors to have one number for their career match, discuss how closely their projected choice matches the reasons someone should choose a job, occupation, or career. Ask students to reflect on what they may need to think about differently.

1. **Share with students that you are now going to play two short videos that deal with two of the “big” criteria for choosing an occupation or career field**, namely future income potential and unemployment.

Show the videos. The students’ job while the videos are playing is check to see where their major falls terms of future income potential and unemployment.

1. **Give students time to process the videos by having small groups of students share with each other the answers to the following questions**:

* Was your proposed job/occupation/career one of the ones that will have the highest future income potential?
* Was your proposed job/occupation/career one of the ones that will have high employment in the future?
* Will either of these factors, high pay or potential unemployment factor strongly in career path decisions? Why or why not?
* What will be the key criteria for you in making job/occupation/career decisions?

1. **Have the groups share out and compare notes.** Return to the initial list the students created of reasons to choose a job/occupation/career. Have they changed their minds? What seems most important now? You may even consider putting the reasons in an order of priority based on student preference. Then have students complete a *Journal Page* of their own reflections.

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *Journal Page***

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* **FACILITATOR NOTES**

For juniors and seniors, the stakes are higher and they need to begin to think about their next steps in their education as an investment in their life long career plan. This unit uses two short You Tube videos to help students begin to sort through college major and career decisions.

If students have not been exposed to or completed Lesson 9-16, “Career Focus,” this is an excellent time to take students through that material.

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LESSON 12-27 STUDENT HANDOUT

JOURNAL PAGE

**DATE:**

**Lesson 12-27 | *REFINING YOUR CAREER FOCUS***

***Q1:*** How did you change your mind about your list of reasons to choose a job/occupation/career?

***Q2:*** What seems most important now?

***Q3:*** What courses your are taking connect with your Personalized Pathway for your career focus?

***Answers:***