



Middle School

National FFA Organization

Lesson MS.27

UNDERSTANDING PROFESSIONS, CAREERS AND JOBS

Unit.

Stage One of Development—ME

Problem Area.

What Foundational Skills Do I Need for Career Success?

Precepts.

I2: Make clear decisions in my professional life.

National Standards.

NL-ENG.K12.7 - Evaluating Data - Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.



Student Learning Objectives. As a result of this lesson, the student will ...

- 1 Identify factors to consider in making professional decisions.
- 2 Interview a professional about his or her career decisions.



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Time. Instruction time for this lesson: 50 minutes.



Resources

Career Cluster Resources, 2002. www.careerclusters.org



Tools, Equipment, and Supplies

- ✓ Overhead projector
- ✓ MS.27.AS.A—one per student
- ✓ MS.27.AS.B—one per student
- ✓ MS.27.TM.A
- ✓ MS.27.TM.B
- ✓ MS.27.Assess—one per student



Key Terms. The following terms are presented in this lesson and appear in bold italics:

- ▶ Technical degree
- ▶ Formal education
- ▶ Mobility



Interest Approach

Pass out MS.27.AS.A. Allow students time to complete the self-assessment and then discuss areas where growth is needed.



Think about what it will take for you to be happy in your professional life. For the next few minutes, complete the self-assessment sheet.

Now take a look at the areas you circled "sometimes" and "no." Take a minute and think about what problems these areas could cause in your future career. Choose 2 of those areas and write a brief statement on the assessment sheet relating to the problems you could face if you do not strengthen those areas. You have 4 minutes to complete this. What questions do you have? Begin

Throughout today's lesson, we will discuss professional choices in life and factors affecting those choices.



SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Identify factors to consider in making professional decisions.



- The decisions you make today will have a huge impact on your future. It is time for you to start thinking about your professional career path. You must consider your interests, values, and goals while preparing to make these decisions. On a clean sheet of paper, take the next few minutes to write down a plan of what you expect to achieve in the next ten years. Draw a line through the center of the paper from top to bottom. On the left side, write the heading "Achievements." On the right side write the heading "How I Will Accomplish This." You will have 10 minutes to complete this exercise. What questions do you have? You may begin.

Allow students time to complete their plans. Ask for a few volunteers to share their plans with the class. Once this is complete, initiate a discussion about factors they should keep in mind while preparing to make professional decisions.



While writing your plans, you were probably thinking of what you expect out of life in order to achieve it. Since you are now thinking about your professional decisions, let's look at a few factors to consider when making professional decisions.

Instruct students to copy MS.27.TM.A and MS.27.TM.B in their notebooks as you place them on the overhead projector. Explain the factors in detail and provide examples of experiences you may have dealt with or someone you know may have dealt with.

I. Factors to consider when making professional choices

A. Education required

1. High school diploma
2. **Technical degree:** a degree certifying a person in a trade
3. **Formal education:** a degree from a four-year college

B. Experiences that may be important to achieving your goal: become involved in what you expect to achieve to get experience and determine if that is something you can see yourself doing for a lifetime

C. The amount of money you expect to make

1. Can you live comfortably?
2. Can you achieve your material goals with the income?

D. Working conditions

1. Inside/outside
2. Customer relations or personnel

E. **Mobility:** the ability to move with the job-Are you willing to move?

F. Amount of time off desired-how strenuous a work schedule are you willing to fulfill?

G. Benefits

1. Insurance



2. Retirement

3. Vacation

H. Your personal interest-Are you interested in the profession?

Objective 2. Interview a professional about his or her career decisions.

Students are to choose a professional in the career area in which they are interested and conduct an interview. Students should base their interview on the questions listed on MS.27.AS.B.



Students, now is the time to explore your career options. You are to conduct an interview of a professional in a career you are interested in. The interview should be based on the interview questions you will be given. This is to be completed in writing and returned to me. Use the interview to obtain information about a career in which you are interested.



Review/Summary

Students should write a paragraph describing what factors are the most important to them in a job and why. Students should use this time to reflect on the lesson and think about their futures



An option to the above activity would be to use a Cartographer moment to map out the road on the journey to achieving a career. Students should use their notes to refresh their memories on important points along the journey such as education and experience. The end of the journey is a place called My Chosen Career. By the Chosen Career on their map, have students write three career characteristics they consider to be most important (ex: working outside, money, interest). Give students 10 minutes to create this.



Application

►Extended Classroom Activity:

Have students complete and return MS.27.AS.B.

►FFA Activity:

Students should review the list of career development events that may help them develop skills.

►SAE Activity:

Students should participate in an internship or job-shadow with local agricultural businesses.



Evaluation

Students will complete MS.27.Assess.

Answers to Assessment:

Grade on clarity and content, as you would grade a well-written paragraph. Students' responses must include at least five of the eight factors listed below.

- Education required



- Experiences that may be important to achieving goals
- The amount of money expected
- Working conditions
- Mobility
- Amount of time off desired
- Benefits
- Personal interest



UNDERSTANDING PROFESSIONS, CAREERS AND JOBS

Directions: Respond to the following scenario in the space provided.

You have a friend who is trying to start preparing for the future. He or she asks your opinion on things to consider while making professional decisions. In paragraph form, try to help him or her learn more about professional decisions. Remember the factors that were discussed in class—you should include at least five factors covered. Remember, this is your best friend, and you want him or her to be successful.



- ◆ **Education required**
- ◆ **High school diploma**
- ◆ **Technical degree**
- ◆ **Formal education**
- ◆ **Experiences that may be important to achieving your goal**
- ◆ **Become involved in what you expect to achieve to get experience and determine if that is something you can see yourself doing for a lifetime.**
- ◆ **The amount of money you expect to make**
- ◆ **Can you live comfortably.**
- ◆ **Can you achieve your material goals with the income.**



- ◆ **Working conditions**
- ◆ **Inside or outside**
- ◆ **Customer relations or personal**
- ◆ **Mobility**
- ◆ **Are you willing to move.**
- ◆ **Amount of time off desired**
- ◆ **How strenuous a work schedule are you willing to fulfill.**
- ◆ **Benefits**
- ◆ **Insurance**
- ◆ **Retirement**
- ◆ **Vacation**
- ◆ **Your personal interest**
- ◆ **Are you interested in the profession.**



SELF-ASSESSMENT

Directions: Circle the choice that most applies to you.

1. I am always prepared and ready when a deadline arrives.

Yes Sometimes No

2. I take charge and make decisions for myself.

Yes Sometimes No

3. I understand the need for preparation.

Yes Sometimes No

4. I get along well with others.

Yes Sometimes No

5. I understand that my decisions today will affect my future.

Yes Sometimes No

6. I understand the importance of having a future career plan.

Yes Sometimes No

7. I listen to what others have to say.

Yes Sometimes No

8. Family is important in my life.

Yes Sometimes No



Directions: Ask the professional the following questions and record his or her answers.

1. What is your job title.
2. What education is required for this position.
3. What are your duties.
4. Did you have to perform an internship before being hired.
5. What is the salary range for this position. (Do not ask what their salary is!)
6. How much vacation time are you allowed.
7. What benefits do you have.
8. When did you decide that you were interested in this position.

Your Response to the Interview

9. Is the job what you expected it to be.
10. What do you think you will like the most about the job. least.
11. Has the interview made you more or less interested in this job.

