

Lesson MS.3

DEFINING CAREER SUCCESS

Unit.

Introduction to Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success

Problem Area.

Introduction

Precepts.

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 characteristics of a successful career.
- 2 Identify steps to creating career success.



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Time. Instruction time for this lesson: 50 minutes.



Resources

FFA Student Handbook

FFA Agricultural Career Brochure, Think About It—can be ordered through the National FFA



Tools, Equipment, and Supplies

- ✓ Blank sheet of paper for each student
- ✓ Overhead projector
- ✓ For each student—one to two magazines, scissors, glue, or tape; one sheet of 9 . 11 inch construction paper; one blank sheet of paper for each group—depends upon class size and group size
- ✓ MS.3.AS.A
- ✓ MS.3.AS.B—one per student
- ✓ MS.3.AS.C—one per student
- ✓ MS.3.TM.A
- ✓ MS.3.TM.B
- ✓ MS.3.Assess—one per student

Key Terms. *There are no key terms presented in this lesson.*



Interest Approach

Word Association Activity: Give students blank sheets of paper. You will say the word “career” and students will write the first two words that come to mind. Next, say the word “success.” Instruct students to write the first three or four words that come to mind.



We are going to do a word association activity today. I will say a word, and you will write down the first words that come to mind on the blank sheet of paper in front of you. You will need to write two words for the first word I give you. Remember to keep your two words secret. Is everyone ready? The word is “career.” Go!

Give students about 15 to 20 seconds and then move on to the next word.



Everyone, stop writing! You will need to write three or four words for the next word I give you. Is everyone ready? The second word is “success.” Go!

Give students approximately 30 seconds for these three or four words. After 30 seconds are up, have students partner with another student. Instruct them to compare answers with one another to find out what words they chose in common and what words are different. After students have compared answers, have them volunteer to share their words with the class as you record them on a writing surface.



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Make two columns: one for Career and one for Success. You will get a variety of different words for career. Examples: job; work; money; plus, you may get specifically identified professions. Success words may include: money; happiness; car; home; family; travel; fame.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Identify characteristics of a successful career.

Using a Descartes Moment lead a discussion of characteristics of a successful career.



We are going to spend a little bit of time thinking about the characteristics of a successful career. Each of us needs to write the answer to the following questions on a sheet of paper. Are we ready? Let's go.

1. What do you know for sure makes us a successful career? *Call on students to share what they*

wrote.

2. What do you think makes a successful career? *Again, call on students to share.*
3. What questions do you have about what makes a successful career? *Facilitate discussion about what questions they have before showing MS.3.TM.A.*

Show MS.3.TM.A. and lead the class in a brief discussion on the following ideas:



You have generated some ideas about career success through the word association process. Career success means different things to different people. Let's consider some commonly accepted ideas related to career success.

I. What Makes a Successful Career ?

A. Commonly accepted characteristics of a successful career

1. You enjoy the work related to your career.
2. You have the skills needed to do excellent work—you are good at what you do!
3. Your work is beneficial to society.
4. You earn adequate money to meet your financial needs.

Career Success Collage Activity: This activity will help students visualize success. Students are to create a collage using pictures, advertisements, headlines, words, etc., from magazines. This collage is to depict the four ideas from MS.3.TM.A, as well as some of their own thoughts relating to success. Make sure to use magazines that are appropriate and that can be cut up. Check with your school library for old magazines they no longer want. Give students 20 minutes to create this collage.



Now that we have considered the characteristics of career success, you need to think about what career success means to you. Following the instructions on the handout being passed out, create a collage that represents career success to you. Your imagination is your only limit but there is only 20 minutes to complete this activity. When I say stop, quickly clean up all of the paper scraps around you and sit quietly for more instructions. Are there any questions? Go!

Distribute MS.3.AS.A to each student and read through the instructions. Also explain the grading format, which is on this activity sheet. Note: Do not have students hand in their collages at this point. They will use them for a review activity later in the lesson.



Objective 2. Identify steps to creating career success.



Stop. We will return to our collages in a moment. A new activity is being passed out to you. Do not begin until I say go.

Read instructions.



You will have ten minutes. Are there any questions? Go!

The Steps to Career Success Activity: Split class into groups of three or four students. Distribute MS.3.AS.B to each student and read the instructions. Allow approximately ten minutes for this activity. At the end of the time period, see how many groups have climbed the steps to career success. The answers are: Step 1) Interests; Step 2) Skills; Step 3) Education; Step 4) Goals; and Step 5) Action. Use MS.3.TM.B to review this activity.



Great job groups! Let's solidify these ideas with the following:

II. What Steps Must I Take to Achieve Career Success.

- A. Determine what your interests are.
 - 1. What do you like to do.
 - 2. What natural talents and strengths do you have.
 - 3. What careers would require activities related to your strengths.
- B. Identify the skills required to achieve success in this career area.
- C. Determine what type of education is necessary to develop the required skills.
 - 1. College—bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree.
 - 2. Technical school—One or two years; associate's degree
 - 3. On-the-job training
- D. Develop a plan with goals to help develop the skills and education required.
 - 1. What type of courses do I need to take in high school.
 - 2. What level of grades do I want to achieve.
 - 3. What schools will help train me after high school.
- E. Put your plan into action!



Review/Summary

Objective 1: Assign the students partners to work with after the following instructions: Have them select a community person they both know and consider to be successful. Have them review the four commonly accepted characteristics of career success, and identify how many of these characteristics their selected person exhibits. Allow them approximately two to three minutes to complete.



In a moment, we will select a community member you know and consider successful. Review the four commonly accepted characteristics of career success, and identify how many of these characteristics your selected person exhibits. You may work with a partner. Go!

Objective 2: Have students stay with the same partners. Distribute handout MS.3.AS.C. Instruct students to use the worksheet to evaluate the career success represented on their collage. After they have completed MS.3.AS.C, instruct students to share their evaluation with their partner.



Earlier, each of you completed a collage relating to what you thought it meant to be successful. Now, think about what type of career you will need to create the success represented on your collage. Using the Steps to Career Success listed on the handout, complete the evaluation of your collage by answering the questions. After you complete this, quietly share with your partner the steps you will take to achieve career success.



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Application

►Extended Classroom Activity:

Provide "Think About It: Careers in Agriculture"-available from the National FFA. Have each student choose one career and write a short report. Included in the report could be such information as the normal workday activities, special skills needed, education required, salary range, etc.

►FFA Activity:

Have students read about the Proficiency Awards or Career Development events and make a list of requirements and skills needed to participate in these areas. FFA Student Handbook would be a good source of information.

►SAE Activity:

Arrange a field trip for students to visit several agriculturally related career areas to see what types of activities are involved and skills are used. This could help middle school students plan for a future SAE.

✓ Evaluation

Students will complete MS.3.Assess in class.

Answers to Assessment:

1. A.
C.
D.
F.
2. A. Identify your interests
B. Identify skills needed for career
C. Determine education needed
D. Set goals
E. Put goals into action.

Note: They do not need to be in this order for the test.

3. Answers will vary.



MS.3.Assess Name: _____

DEFINING CAREER SUCCESS

1. Place an X by the commonly accepted characteristics of career success we discussed in class.

- _____ A. Enjoy the work related to your career.
- _____ B. Become a millionaire.
- _____ C. Your career is beneficial to society.
- _____ D. You have developed the skills necessary to do excellent work.
- _____ E. You must have a four-year college degree.
- _____ F. You earn enough money to meet your financial needs.
- _____ G. You must have the highest grade point average in your class.
- _____ H. You must have a job where you wear a suit and tie.

2. List the five steps to career success we identified in class.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

3. Write a short essay on what career you might be interested in and why.



CHARACTERISTICS OF CAREER SUCCESS

What Makes a Successful Career.

◆ Commonly accepted characteristics of a successful career

- ➔ You enjoy the work related to your career.
- ➔ You have the skills needed to do excellent work—you are good at what you do!
- ➔ Your work is beneficial to society.
- ➔ You earn adequate money to meet your financial needs.



MS.3.TM.B

STEPS TO CAREER SUCCESS

What Steps Must I Take to Achieve Career Success.

- #### **◆ Determine what your interests are.**
- ➔ What do you like to do.
 - ➔ What natural talents and strengths do you have.
 - ➔ What careers would require activities related to your strengths.

◆ **Identify the skills required to achieve success in this career area.**

◆ **Determine what type of education is necessary to develop the required skills.**

→ College—bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree.

→ Technical school—one or two years; associate's degree

→ On-the-job training

◆ **Develop a plan with goals to help develop the skills and education required.**

→ What type of courses do I need to take in high school.

→ What level of grades do I want to achieve.

→ What schools will help train me after high school.

◆ **Put your plan into action!**



You are to create a collage that represents the four commonly accepted characteristics of a successful career.

A. Commonly accepted characteristics of a successful career and examples of how to show these areas on your collage. The examples are only suggestions. Use your own creative ideas to represent each of the areas.

1. Enjoy the work related to your career. Example: Picture of a happy person.
2. Have the skills needed to do excellent work. Example: Picture of someone receiving an award.
3. Your work is beneficial to society. Example: Advertisement showing how a product is helpful to society.
4. Earn adequate money to meet your financial needs. Example: Picture of a new home.

You may also add other characteristics of career success you consider important. Examples: pictures of a happy family; travel activities; new car

You will need the following items:

- ✓ 1 piece of construction paper
- ✓ 1 pair of scissors
- ✓ Glue or tape
- ✓ 1 or 2 magazines

Cut out pictures, advertisements, words, headlines, etc., that represent the four commonly accepted characteristics of a successful career, along with other items you consider important to career success. Use construction paper as the backing of your collage.

►Evaluation

Your collage will be graded using the following format:

5 points for each of the four commonly accepted characteristics discussed.	Total—20 points
5 points for adding extra characteristics of success you consider important.	Total— 5 points
5 points for neatness and creativity.	Total— 5 points
	Grand Total—30 points



MS.3.AS.B Name: _____

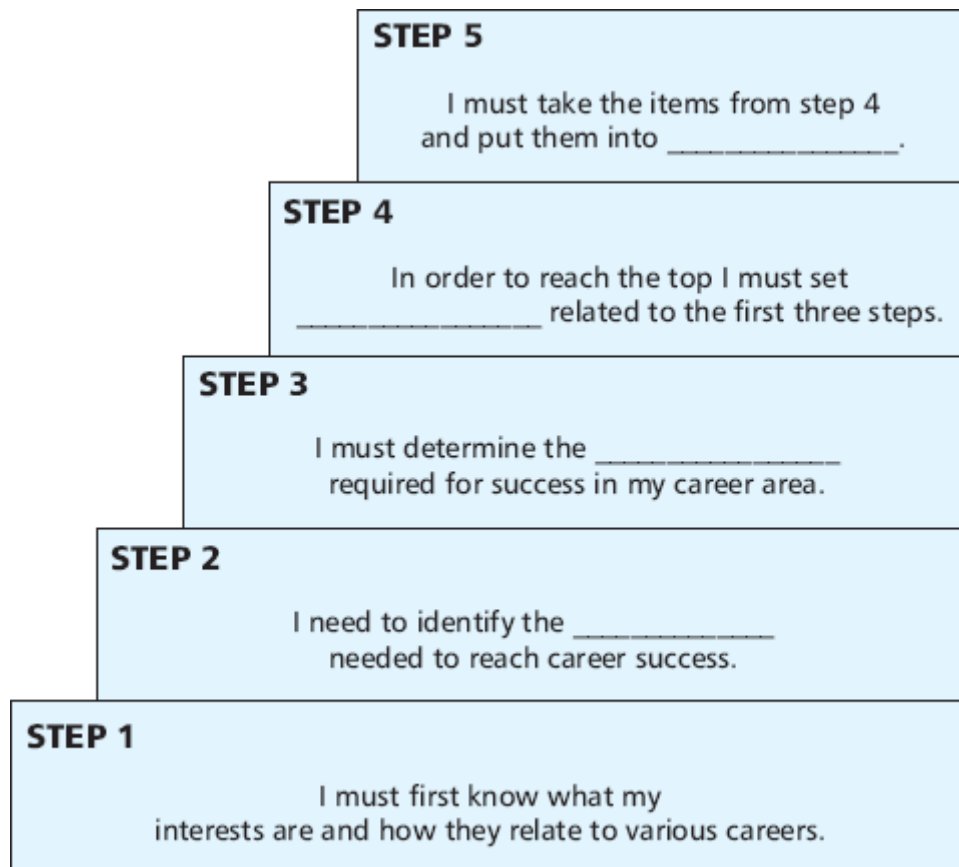
WHAT STEPS DO I TAKE TO CAREER SUCCESS.

The diagram below shows steps leading to career success. You must ascend the steps one at a time by identifying what each step represents. The following is a list of clues relating to each step. As you solve the clues, fill in the blank on each step. The first group to fill in all the blanks and reach the top of Career Success wins. The first one is done for you as an example.

- Step 1: In order to know what career direction to go in, you must first know something about you. The word you are looking for means to cause special attention to.
- Step 2: Everyone needs these to reach career success. They change from one career to another. It rhymes with pills.
- Step 3: The answer found in question two will help me see what I need to do. I must get an _____ to reach success and have celebration. You are taking part in this word right now!
- Step 4: Now I've taken three steps, I must take two more. If I can achieve these, I reach the career success door. Considered stepping stones to achievement.
- Step 5: One more step to make, the next thing you must do, is take what you have done in 4 and open up the career success door. This word is the opposite of doing nothing.



STEPS TO CAREER SUCCESS



MS.3.AS.C Name: _____

COLLAGE EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Earlier, each of you completed a collage relating to what you thought it meant to be successful.

Now think about what type of career you will need to create the success represented on your collage. Using the Steps to Career Success listed below, complete the evaluation of your collage by answering the questions below. After you complete this, share with your partner what steps you will need to take to achieve career success.

►Steps to Career Success

1. What are my interests. If you had to select a career today that would help you achieve the success represented on your collage, what type of career would it be. List the career below.

My career would be:

2. What skills do I need for my career. List three to five skills you will need to be successful in this career.

a. Skill 1:

b. Skill 2:

c. Skill 3:

d. Skill 4:

e. Skill 5:

3. What type of education will I need. List below the type of education you will need to be successful in your career. Example: two-year technical education, four-year college, etc. You may ask your instructor for help on this.

Education needed:



4. What goals will I need to set in order to achieve career success. List three major goals you will need to achieve in the first three steps. Example: 1. Graduate from high school with a 3.3 GPA. 2. Score a 25 on my ACT. 3. Enroll in a four-year college.

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

5. Put the first four steps into action. List three immediate steps you can take to start on the path to career success. Example: 1. Pass all of my classes this year. 2. Research the careers I am interested in. 3. Post my goals in a place where I can see them each day.

Step 1:

Step 2:

Step 3:

