



Empowerment Topic: Importance of Work Experience

Lesson Objective

To help students understand the importance of work and ways they can advance their careers with early work-related experiences.

Preparation

Preview the video (3 minute 15 seconds) in advance of the lesson.

Warm-up Activity

1. Talk with students about how they feel about working at jobs.
2. Have students discuss the difference between ordinary household chores and jobs for which they get paid or for which they volunteer to do outside of the house.
3. Invite students to share any early work-related experiences they may have, such as mowing lawns, feeding pets or babysitting for their families or for neighbors.
4. Ask students to tell what they have learned from these jobs.
5. Guide students to understand that there are a broad variety of work-related experiences they can begin to learn about now. These may include full and part time positions, freelance work, volunteer jobs, entrepreneurial ventures and internships.
6. Help students understand what is meant by an internship. Talk together about how an internship can greatly stretch their interests and help prepare them for a job later.
7. Have students compile a list of jobs they might like to try now and when they get a little older.

View the Video: *Importance of Work Experience*

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "The Importance of Work Experience." (Tip: You can use steps 2, 3 and 4 to establish a framework for watching the video, or just skip ahead to step 4.)
2. Explain that the video presents role models discussing the benefits of early work-related experiences.
3. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for reasons the role models believe students should consider early work-related experiences.
4. View the video together.
5. Tell students they are going to view the video again; before this second viewing, invite students to talk about the reasons the role models in the video said that early work experiences are important and to be ready to discuss these after viewing the video.

Video Follow-Up

1. Ask students to discuss or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.
2. Invite students to record specific things they learned about early work experiences featured in the video and to reflect upon their observations. (E.g., "I heard one of the role models talking about internships. I don't know what it meant to have an internship. I would like to learn more about that.")
3. Have students recall what was said in the video about ways to land jobs. Ask if any of them have ever tried the methods mentioned in the video.
4. Encourage students to edit any written work so it can be shared with classmates.
5. Use student writings as a springboard to further discussion.

Extension Activities

- Invite students to research to discover jobs that students their age can easily do. Encourage students to also learn about ways that they might spend and save, invest and spend the money they will earn from their jobs
- Consider having an employment specialist meet with your students in person or via text, voice and/or video so they can reinforce the notion that early work experiences are valuable for students, and so that they may also respond to comments and /or answer questions in real time.

Related Questions to Explore

Use the list of questions below to help students learn more about the information presented in the video:

- Have each student discuss any paid or unpaid job he or she has done to date. Ask: what responsibilities have you learned from each one?
- Invite students who have worked with teams of people to tell what sorts of responsibilities they learn from those experiences. Ask: how is working on a team different from working alone.
- What is the difference between a job and a career? Explain your answer.
- Is it OK if you're early work experience includes many different types of jobs that have nothing to do with your career goals? How do you know?
- What is an internship? How can an internship prepare you for a career? Can an unpaid internship be as valuable as one in which you are paid?
- What is a volunteer job? How can a volunteer job prepare you for a career?