Planning for My Career

This lesson is designed to help students explore a variety of careers available using the MEFA Pathway website in order to sort through potential careers, summarize their findings in a presentation, and reflect upon which career they are most drawn to.

Grade Level: 10 - 12

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Learn why knowing about career paths prior to attending college is important for student success

2. Connect information they gathered from the Get to Know You assessment to research at least three careers of interest

3. Evaluate the occupational characteristics of at least three careers of interest

4. Create a presentation that summarizes the occupational characteristics of the three researched careers and provide a written reflection indicating the career that most interests them

ACTIVITIES

PART 1

Content Knowledge

Ask students why it might be beneficial to figure some of this information out before entering college? Make sure to point to the fact that all majors have different requirements, and while it's not necessarily bad to switch majors, it could lengthen the time they are in college. Tell students that having an idea about the type of career they'd like will allow them to more easily choose a major that is appropriate for that field.

PART 2

Applying Information

Students should complete the Get to Know You assessment in order to narrow their career search. Ask them to pick at least three careers that they want to know more about; it may be a good idea to choose the three that they've already narrowed based on their interests, values, and skills.

MEFA PATHWAY LINKS FOR LESSON:

- Get to Know Yourself
- Career Search

SUBJECT AREAS:

- Personal Finance
- Career Exploration

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
- Presentation Grading Rubric (attached)
- Presentation software, such as PowerPoint

Email any questions to:
info@mefapathway.org

LESSON PLAN

PART 3

Evaluating Information

Students should take the three careers they've chosen and research the occupational characteristics of each using the MEFA Pathway Career Search page under the Discover Careers tab. Students should take notes on the overview of each job, specific work activities, related occupations, median wages, required education level, and field of studies that could lead them to these careers.

PART 4

Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Students should create a presentation on software such as PowerPoint that summarizes each of the careers they've evaluated. They should include all of the required information (overview of the job, specific work activities, related occupations, median wages, required education level, and field of studies that could lead them to these careers) for each career, and it should be in their own words. The presentation should include appropriate graphics that add to the content on the slides. In addition to an opening slide (title, their name, class, teacher name, date), students should also have a concluding slide in which they reflect upon the one career of the researched careers they are most interested in and why.

Presentation Grading Rubric

CATEGORY	EXCELLENT 4	GOOD 3	SATISFACTORY 2	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 1
Content Accuracy	All content throughout the presentation is accurate. There are no factual errors.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that seems inaccurate.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly inaccurate.	Content confusing or contains more than one factual error.
Sequencing of Information	Information is organized in a clear, logical way. It is easy to anticipate the next slide.	Most information is organized in a clear, logical way. One slide or piece of information seems out of place.	Some information is logically sequenced. An occasional slide or piece of information seems out of place.	There is no clear plan for the organization of information.
Effectiveness	Project includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topics.	Project is lacking one or two key elements.	Project is missing more than two key elements.	Project is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Use of Graphics	All graphics are attractive (size and colors) and support the topic of the presentation.	A few graphics are not attractive but all support the topic of the presentation.	All graphics are attractive but a few do not support the topic of the presentation.	Several graphics are unattractive AND detract from the content of the presentation.
Font Choice & Formatting	Font formats (size, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formats have been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
Reflection	Student chooses a career and thoroughly explains why this career is the most interesting to him/her.	Student chooses a career and explains why this career is the most interesting to him/her.	Student chooses a career and briefly explains why this career is the most interesting to him/her.	Student chooses a career and does not explain why this career is the most interesting to him/her OR doesn't choose a career at all.
Conventions. Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	There are no grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors.	There are 1-2 grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors	There are 3-4 grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors.	There are 5 or more grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors.