



[RETIRED] Mini-Unit 3.4 Entering the Workforce

Student Activity Packet

MINI-UNIT: ALTERNATIVES TO 4-YEAR COLLEGES

Name:

Students will be able to:

- Identify steps they can take to help them choose a career after high school
- Explain the importance of considering job qualities that will bring them job satisfaction as they progress in their careers
- Conduct research on occupations they are interested in to learn more about earning potential, required training, career growth outlook, and more
- Understand the importance of soft skills in the workplace

NOTE: Vocabulary for this unit can be found in the [NGPF Personal Finance Dictionary](#)



INTRO

PROMPT:

Use the space below to answer the prompt.

1. **What kinds of jobs have you thought of pursuing after graduating high school?**
2. **What questions do you have about transitioning from high school into the workforce?**



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ARTICLE: [How to Make a Career Choice When You're Undecided](#)

Determining a career path that is right for you can be a daunting process and, understandably, most young people are overwhelmed with the options available to them. Skim through this article to learn about 8 steps you can take to help you focus your career exploration journey. Then, answer the questions.

1. **Of the eight steps listed, which steps have you already begun doing? Which steps do you need to spend more time on?**

2. Why is it a good idea to think about where you want to be in the future when thinking about your career now?

ARTICLE: [Deciding on Your Ideal Career: Considerations and Steps To Success](#)

Personal fulfillment plays a big role in how much you enjoy your job. While your first job probably won't be your "dream job", it's important to think about what job qualities you're looking for so that you can find a job that's a good fit for you as you progress through your career! Read through this article, stopping at How to Figure Out What Career You Want, to learn about different factors to consider when thinking about the career you want to have after high school. Then, answer the questions.

1. When deciding whether to accept a job offer, many people focus primarily on the salary. While salary is an important element to consider, why might it be just as important to think about the other factors discussed in this article?
2. Imagine you are interviewing for a position and want to get an idea of how satisfied you would be with this role. Select three of the factors covered in the article and note them below. Write ONE question for each of the factors you chose that would be appropriate to ask the person who is interviewing you.



DO IT

ACTIVITY: [RESEARCH: Jobs For You After High School](#)

Now that you have an idea on how to approach your job search, let's take some time to research a few career options you're interested in. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete this activity.



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VIDEO: [Hard Skills vs. Soft Skills](#)

While it's important to think about what kind of training and skills you'll need for your job, it's also important to consider how well versed you are in your soft skills. Watch this video to learn more about what soft skills are and how they play a role in the workplace. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. In your own words, briefly describe the difference between hard and soft skills.**
- 2. Why are soft skills important, especially in the workplace?**
- 3. Many generational studies show that members of GenZ, while technologically savvy, lack strong soft skills. Why do you think this might be the case?**



EXIT TICKET

Follow your teacher's directions to complete the Exit Ticket.