

# Importance of Work Experience: Classroom Lesson Plan

## Lesson Topic:

Understanding the Importance of Work Experience

## Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to articulate the importance of early work-related experience and list potential ways to obtain jobs.

## Materials:

- Chart paper
- Blank paper
- Writing Utensils
- Projector or other method to watch the movie

## Advanced Preparation:

- [Preview the video](#) before sharing it with your students [3:15].

## Warm-up Activity:

1. Talk with students about how they feel about working at a job.
2. Have students discuss the difference between ordinary household chores and jobs for which they get paid or volunteer to do outside of the house.
3. Invite students to share any early work-related experiences they may already have, such as mowing lawns, feeding pets, or babysitting.

4. Ask students to discuss 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 the meaning of internship. Talk together about how an internship can greatly stretch their interests and help prepare them for a job later.

### **View the Video: "Importance of Work Experience"**

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Importance of Work Experience".
2. Explain that the video presents role models talking about the benefits of early work-related experience.
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. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

### **Video Follow-up:**

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions and responses to the video.
2. Invite students to record specific things they learned about early work experiences from 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. Create a list of these methods on chart paper. Ask if any students have ever tried the methods mentioned in the video.
4. Give each student a blank sheet of paper and a writing utensil. Ask each student to fold their paper in half to create two equal columns. In the first column, have students compile a list of careers they are interested in trying when they get a little older. In the second column, ask students to list related work experience for each career listed in the first column that they could get now to help them be prepared.
5. Ask students who are interested in sharing to do so.
6. Encourage all students to share their thinking with their parents and friends. Explain that sharing your goals and ideas for the future with others helps you to gather new ideas and remain accountable to take the necessary steps to reach your goals.

**Extension Activities:**

1. Use the “Related Questions to Explore” as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore the importance of work experience.
2. Have students research jobs that students their age can easily do.
3. Consider having an employment specialist meet with your students in person or via text, voice and/or video to reinforce the notion that early work experiences are valuable. They may also respond to comments and/or answer questions in real time.

**Related Questions to Explore:**

- List any paid or unpaid jobs you have held. What responsibilities have you learned from each one? What were the fun and not fun parts?
- Have you ever worked with teams of people? What did you learn from those experiences? How is working on a team different from working alone? Are you interested in a future career where you work on a team, or do you want to work alone?
- What is the difference between a job and a career? Explain your answer.
- Is it okay if your 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?



## Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Work Experience:

1. Exploring Careers: What Types of Careers Are There in the World?
2. Soft Skills: What Types of Personal Skills Will I Need to Succeed?
3. Goal Setting for Success: Set Work Experience Goals for the Future
4. Conducting and Recording Interviews about Early Work Experience with Real Life Inspiring Women
5. Preparing to Get a Job: Searching, Applying, and Resume Skills
6. What Would You Do? Challenging Situations You May Encounter in the Workplace
7. Interviews: What to Say, How to Practice, and When to Arrive