

5 Lessons: Career Exploration Unit

Overview:

The career exploration concept map is designed with an eighth grade audience in mind and will be used as part of a nine-week career exploration course. The lessons build on each other as they challenge students to understand real world costs, apply reality checks to career interests, analyze a career to dig deeper in the exploration, evaluate career possibilities, and create a future of possibilities by building a strong foundation now. The Ohio School Counseling standards that are addressed in these lessons are related to the career development domain. More specifically, school counseling guidelines A, B, and C are addressed because the purpose of the lessons is for the students to develop career awareness; acquire career information; and gain knowledge about the relationship between academic achievement, career choices, and establishing a satisfactory lifestyle (Ohio School Counseling Association).

All of the lessons are hosted on the Schoology website with the goal to encourage class discussion on the various career exploration topics. Within the “Five Digital Lessons: EDTL” course, students have access to five assignments, five discussions, a listing of all of the files and links used in the lessons, and a page that welcomes students to the course.

Lesson 1: Reality Check for Career Exploration grade 8

Timeframe: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Objectives:

1. The students will start to develop career awareness (OSCA guideline A).
2. The students will analyze the relationship between educational achievement, career choices, and establishing a satisfactory lifestyle (OSCA guideline C).

Technology/Material:

- Schoology
- Ohio Career Information System
- Voki
- VoiceThread
- Screencast (Jing)

Lesson (Step-by-Step):

1. To get to the first online lesson:
 - a. Students will login to the Schoology website (preferably with Google Chrome). Note: You can view this from a student perspective by going to <https://www.schoology.com/home.php> and using my created student email: jnafzig@bgsu.edu and password: edtl
 - b. Students will click on courses to open up the course Five Digital Lessons: EDTL.
 - c. Students will open up the assignments link and click on Career Lesson 1: Reality Check.

- d. This process is similar for lessons 1 – 5.
2. Students will first notice (and click on) the assignment entitled, “Before Starting the Career Lessons: Check This Introduction Out First.” This is an overview video on how to navigate Schoology (using the Screencast product Jing).
3. After checking out the introduction video, students will read the lesson overview for Career Lesson 1, which encourages the students to explore their ideal lifestyle and the careers that can support this particular lifestyle. This overview also provides a grading rubric for lesson 1. A Voki is also provided that reads the lesson overview to the students (this is best viewed using Google Chrome).
4. The students will then view the example Reality Check and login to OCIS. Note: You can get into OCIS from a student perspective by following the login steps in Schoology. I created the username and password for this BGSU assignment.
5. Once students have completed the Reality Check and placed their results in the dropbox, they will go to the discussion section on Schoology and comment (give each other feedback) on the following questions:
 - a. *How much money do you need in a month to support your ideal lifestyle?*
 - b. *What are at least 3 careers that you could go into to support this lifestyle?*
 - c. *What are some of the pros and cons about the above careers?*

Assessment:

1. Reality Check Documentation = 10 points
2. Thoughtful Contribution in the Discussion Board = 15 points
3. Note: Lesson 1 = 25 points out of 140 points total for the unit

Lesson 2: Career Cluster Inventory for Career Exploration grade 8**Timeframe: 2 hours****Objectives:**

1. The students will increase their knowledge of related career clusters (OSCA guideline A).
2. The students will acquire career information and awareness (OSCA guideline B).

Technology/Material:

- Schoology
- Ohio Career Information System
- Voki
- VoiceThread (optional)

Lesson (Step-by-Step):

1. To get to the second online lesson:

- a. Students will login to the Schoology website. Note: You can view this from a student perspective by going to <https://www.schoology.com/home.php> and using my created student email: jnafzig@bgsu.edu and password: edtl
 - b. Students will click on courses to open up the course Five Digital Lessons: EDTL.
 - c. Students will open up the assignments link and click on Career Lesson 2: Career Cluster Inventory.
 - d. This process is similar for lessons 1 – 5.
2. Students will read the lesson overview for Career Lesson 2, which helps students discover some possible career options for their future by having them examine their likes and dislikes. This overview also provides a grading rubric for the lesson.
 3. The students will then view the example Career Cluster Inventory and login to OCIS. Note: You can get into OCIS from a student perspective by following the login steps in Schoology. I created the username and password for this BGSU assignment.
 4. Once students have completed the inventory and placed their results in the dropbox, they will go to the discussion section on Schoology and comment (give each other feedback) on the following questions:
 - a. *What are the 3 career clusters that you clicked on?*
 - b. *What surprised you about your Career Cluster results?*

Assessment:

1. Career Cluster Inventory Results = 10 points
2. Thoughtful Contribution in the Discussion Board = 15 points
3. Note: Lesson 2 = 25 points out of 140 points total for the unit

Lesson 3: Examine a Career for Career Exploration grade 8**Timeframe: 2 - 3 hours****Objectives:**

1. The students will increase their knowledge of personal interests and aptitudes and identify related career clusters (OSCA guideline A).
2. The students will define the education and training opportunities needed to achieve career goals (OSCA guideline B).

Technology/Material:

- Schoology
- Ohio Career Information System
- Voki
- Wordle
- Website: Occupational Outlook Handbook
- Web videos: Career Aisle
- VoiceThread (optional)

Lesson (Step-by-Step):

1. To get to the third online lesson:
 - a. Students will login to the Schoology website. Note: You can view this from a student perspective by going to <https://www.schoology.com/home.php> and using my created student email: jnafzig@bgsu.edu and password: edtl
 - b. Students will click on courses to open up the course Five Digital Lessons: EDTL.
 - c. Students will open up the assignments link and click on Career Lesson 3: Examine a Career.
 - d. This process is similar for lessons 1 – 5.
2. Students will read the lesson overview for Career Lesson 3, which explains that it is important to examine career choices to help students discover what career possibilities are the most interesting options for their future. In addition to a sample Wordle document included in the assignment description, a number of resource links are included for the students to use as they research the occupation of their choice. This overview also provides a grading rubric for the lesson.
3. Students will pick an occupation that interests them, conduct research on this career (resource links are provided), and then create a Wordle document that includes information about the career they examined.
4. Once students have completed the Career Wordle and placed their results in the dropbox, they will go to the discussion section on Schoology and comment (give each other feedback) on the following questions:
 - a. *What career did you examine?*
 - b. *What aspects of this occupation sound appealing to you? Which ones don't?*
 - c. *Do you think you could be happy working in this career? Why or why not?*

Assessment:

1. Wordle (with all 9 criteria) = 15 points
2. Reference List (Word document) = 5 points
3. Thoughtful Contribution in the Discussion Board = 15 points
4. Note: Lesson 3 = 35 points out of 140 points total for the unit

Lesson 4: Career Interview for Career Exploration grade 8**Timeframe: 4 hours****Objectives:**

1. The students will expand awareness of career choices through a career interview (OSCA guideline A).
2. The students will define the education and training opportunities needed to achieve career goals (OSCA guideline B).

3. The students will identify ways that the changing workplace requires lifelong learning and upgrading of skills (OSCA guideline B).

Technology/Material:

- Schoology
- Ohio Career Information System
- Voki
- Skype, Vimeo, and YouTube (optional)
- VoiceThread (optional)

Lesson (Step-by-Step):

1. To get to the fourth online lesson:
 - a. Students will login to the Schoology website. Note: You can view this from a student perspective by going to <https://www.schoology.com/home.php> and using my created student email: jnafzig@bgsu.edu and password: edtl
 - b. Students will click on courses to open up the course Five Digital Lessons: EDTL.
 - c. Students will open up the assignments link and click on Career Lesson 4: Career Interview.
 - d. This process is similar for lessons 1 – 5.
2. Students will read the lesson overview for Career Lesson 4, which challenges the students to interview someone who is employed in a career that they are interested in. In addition to a sample video interview included in the assignment description, a link to Vimeo is listed for students who would like to upload a video interview to that source. This overview also provides a grading rubric for the lesson.
3. Students will interview an individual in a career that interests them and create a video interview or written report about this experience.
4. Once students have completed the video interview/written report and placed their results in the dropbox, they will go to the discussion section on Schoology and comment (give each other feedback) on the following questions:
 - a. *Who did you interview and what is their occupation?*
 - b. *What was the most interesting thing that you learned from the interview?*
 - c. *Does this sound like a career you might consider? Why or why not?*

Assessment:

1. Completed Video or Written Report = 20 points
2. Thank you letter = 5 points
3. Thoughtful Contribution in the Discussion Board = 5 points
4. Note: Lesson 4 = 30 points out of 140 points total for the unit

Lesson 5: Keeping Your Options Open for Career Exploration grade 8

Timeframe: 2 hours**Objectives:**

1. The students will increase their knowledge of personal interests and aptitudes and identify related career clusters (OSCA guideline A).
2. The students will acquire career information and awareness (OSCA guideline B).

Technology/Material:

- Schoology
- Ohio Career Information System
- Voki
- VoiceThread

Lesson (Step-by-Step):

1. To get to the fifth online lesson:
 - a. Students will login to the Schoology website. Note: You can view this from a student perspective by going to <https://www.schoology.com/home.php> and using my created student email: jnafzig@bgsu.edu and password: edtl
 - b. Students will click on courses to open up the course Five Digital Lessons: EDTL.
 - c. Students will open up the assignments link and click on Career Lesson 5: Keeping Your Options Open.
 - d. This process is similar for lessons 1 – 5.
2. Students will read the lesson overview for Career Lesson 5, which encourages students to keep their options open because their experiences during high school will impact their interests and help them improve their skills. This overview also provides a grading rubric for the lesson.
3. The students will then view the example IDEAS assessment and login to OCIS. Note: You can get into OCIS from a student perspective by following the login steps in Schoology. I created the username and password for this BGSU assignment.
4. Once students have completed the assessment and placed their results in the dropbox, they will go to the discussion section on Schoology and comment (give each other feedback) on the following question via VoiceThread:
 - a. Why is it important to keep your career options open?
 - b. Note: you can login to my student created VoiceThread account to view this by using the email jnafzig@bgsu.edu and password: jnedtl

Assessment:

1. IDEAS Results = 10 points
2. Thoughtful Contribution in the Discussion Board = 15 points
3. Note: Lesson 5 = 25 points out of 140 points total for the unit

Timeline:

Students should be able to complete the five lessons in this unit within a three and a half week period. Student directed exploration of various career options is encouraged, so it may take students longer to complete a particular lesson because they are investigating careers that are interesting to them. I have not included internal deadlines in Schoology for the purposes of EDTL, but plan to include deadlines for specific lessons when I use them with the 8th grade career class. However, I will also encourage students to contact me if it is difficult (or too rushed) for them to complete the lessons within the timeframe I have established.

The first lesson (reality check) can be completed in 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on how long students decide to investigate the career options at various economic levels. The second lesson (career cluster inventory) can be completed in well under 2 hours. Students will have no problem completing the first two lessons within a week. The third lesson (examine a career) will take students 2 – 3 hours to research and create a Wordle document. Students should have the third lesson completed by the end of the second week. During the third week, the fourth lesson (career interview) should take students no more than 4 hours to complete the interview and paper/video summary. The fifth lesson (keeping your options open) will take students 2 hours to complete and engage in class discussion. Students should be able to complete all of the assignments by the end of a three and a half week period.

Resources

1. <https://www.schoology.com/home.php>
2. <http://ocis.ode.state.oh.us/timeout.aspx>
3. <http://www.bls.gov/OCO/>
4. <http://knowitall.scetv.org/careerisle/index.cfm>
5. <http://www.wordle.net/>
6. <http://vimeo.com/>
7. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HDuEmuBjms&feature=youtu.be>
8. <http://voicethread.com>
9. <http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/features/allfeatures/skype-to-skype-calls/>
10. <http://www.voki.com/>
11. <http://screencast.com/t/6yVIDhwPRX0>

Reference

Ohio School Counselor Association (2007, November). The Ohio comprehensive school counseling program. Retrieved from <http://www.ohioschoolcounselor.org/>