

**Education for Careers: Want it! Plan it! Become It!**  
Inspired by: American School Counselors Association,  
Louisiana Department of Education, Washington State Department of Education

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*“The future depends on what you do today.” ~Mahatma Gandhi*

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**Subject(s):** Language Arts.

**Essential Question:** How do I become what I want to become and how will the changing global economy affect my career choice?

**Grade Levels:** Jr. High and High School

**Final Project:** Team presentation of their chosen profession and a student organized Career Fair with professionals, dignitaries, volunteers, concessions, and a raffle. Monies raised will become the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Gift to future 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to use for classroom technology and field trips.

**Motivation Behind the Project:** The purpose of the “Education for Careers Project” is to prepare students for learning about the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. This Project Based Learning (PBL) Unit will engage students by investigating careers and stretch the learner’s insight as to what it takes to become what they want to be.

In addition, students will improve their Common Core Standards of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills through research, presentations, citing, and note taking which will culminate with a public presentation of their research. By the end of this project, students will be able to:

- Investigate different careers to discover specific job sectors that are of interest to the students;
- Create a resume and “apply” for a job in the career area selected;
- Develop technology and presentation skills by selecting and using a program to present information;
- Identify the purpose of a personal portfolio that they will take with them when they graduate;
- Improve personal and technology skills related to print and web-based portfolios;
- Cultivate communication and presentation skills by presenting web-based portfolios to the class;
- Increase software skills required in the workplace.

### **Project Based Learning Requirements**

1. Research:

- a. Multimedia, print analysis, and guest speakers resulting in citing, journal reflections, comparisons, formal letters and class discussion.
- b. Recognize the relevance of these studies to their future.
- c. Take job questionnaires to broaden their interests beginning with the websites below.

2. Assessments:

- a. Individual:



- i. Research three job sectors and find three careers of interest and then write a proposal addressing the items below and citing at least three sources. This will be discussed with your job sector team.
    1. Introduction (with thesis)
    2. Explanation and description of the job sector and what you currently know.
    3. How you will benefit from this project and studying this career.
  - ii. Formal Letters
    1. Each student will write a formal letter to a professional or dignitary asking them to attend the Career Fair.
    2. If the guest approves, students will follow up and confirm with the presenters before the event.
    3. After the Career Fair, students will send guests thank you cards.
  - iii. Actual Resume: Students will create a resume related to their current job skills.
  - iv. Savings Account: Students will research how to open a savings account.
  - v. For students who are unable to attend the Career Fair, a formal essay will be required which will be due one week after the Career Fair. Student presentations will need to be given in class. The essay must include:
    1. Outline (25 points)
    2. Rough Draft (50 points)
    3. Final Paper (100 points)
    4. Works Cited (25 points)
- b. Team:
- i. Team members sign the team contract, a “President” is chosen, and are then given individual and group rubrics.
  - ii. Interview: Teams will be responsible for interviewing (phone, in-person, or by e-mail) a professional from their Job Sector choice. This must be completed in our classroom (before, during, or after school) and the information is to be included in the team presentation. Questions to be asked are:
    1. Why did you choose this job/career?
    2. What do you do in a typical day?
    3. What education and/or training did you need for this job/career?
    4. How long have you been working in this job/career?
    5. What do you like best about your job/career?
    6. What do you like least about your job/career?
    7. What advice would you give me right now knowing that I am interested in a job/career like yours?
  - iii. Dream Resume: Students will create a resume as the professional they want to be and apply for the dream job of their life!
  - iv. Career Presentations
    1. Teams will present to their class.
    2. Students are to dress professionally.
3. Career Fair: Students will organize the following:



- a. Event Planning Committee
  - i. Parent Advisory
  - ii. Student Volunteers
  - iii. Staff Volunteers
- b. Logistics
  - i. Guest and Student check-in
  - ii. Secure classrooms and make sure they look perfect after the event.
  - iii. Create lists of students to be given to parents to chaperone.
  - iv. Assign chaperones to groups of students to accompany them to three different sessions.
  - v. Organize speakers by sector.
  - vi. Student groups will be created, as closely as possible, to their SurveyMonkey.com information.
- c. Advertising
  - i. Website
  - ii. Video
  - iii. Flyer
- d. Concessions
- e. Donations/Raffle
  - i. Donations
  - ii. Jars for raffle tickets
  - iii. Raffle tickets
- f. Reception for volunteers and guests

### Where to Start!

- [www.careerbridge.wa.gov](http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov)
- <http://www.bls.gov/k12/students.htm>
- <http://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/ExploreCareers.aspx>
- [www.yourfreecareertest.com](http://www.yourfreecareertest.com)

