

Session 6 – Education Paths

Activity 1– Education Paths

There are many paths that lead to a career. Match the education path to the corresponding explanation at the bottom of page 2.

After you have matched the corresponding explanation, It is good to have a back up plan. Choose 3 Education paths that you would consider taking to lead to your career.

_____ 1. A career-information relationship between a student and a person employed in the career area in which the student is interested. The student learns about the workplace and the career area through participation in non-paid activities directed by the mentor. Mentoring is usually longer in duration and intensity and more complex than a job-shadowing experience.

_____ 2. A short-term, non-paid career experience planned so that students learn about the workplace by observing individuals at work in a job that relates to the student's interest, aptitudes, and abilities.

_____ 3. Earn and learn through cooperative education. Career and technical classroom instruction is combined with paid employment directly related to classroom learning. Student instruction and employment experiences are planned and supervised by the school and the employer so that each contributes to the student's career objective and employability.

_____ 4. These programs provide a jumpstart for careers. They provide employment training in a huge array of occupations by missing work-based experience and classroom instruction. Students can earn state licensure and certifications for careers as varied as a cosmetologist, certified Internet Web site designer, heat pump installation technician, certified nursing assistant, and Microsoft certified database administrator.

_____ 5. Entry-level jobs require training at the place of employment for career advancement or even to stay at the same level. Earning potential, however, will be limited unless the employee is particularly competent or creative.

_____ 6. Earn and learn! This path prepares students for specific careers by combining related instruction with on-the-job supervision by experienced professionals. There are over 300 registered occupations offering apprenticeships in Virginia, from electricians and plumbers to law enforcement agents and chefs.

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Activity 1 – Education Paths, continued

_____7. Virginia’s 23 community colleges provide three alternatives: advanced technical training for certification in a wide array of fields; tech prep, a four-year continuous program (combines two years of high school and two years after high-school graduation); and preparation for a four-year college. Averaging less than \$2,000 per year, community college is a fraction of the cost of state universities.

_____8. High-speed, high dollar courses can prepare students for careers such as network engineering, real estate sales, and culinary arts. These private technical and vocational schools offer intensive, short-term training.

_____9. A high school diploma, a high grade-point average (GPA) and SAT score are the keys to getting into the more popular institutions. The college program chosen should be related to the student’s career interests. A four-year bachelor’s degree is a prerequisite for graduate-level studies. This degree will lay the foundation for a variety of career paths and is usually the basic requirement for entering the professional world. Academics are usually supplemented by social and sporting events, especially at residential schools. In-state tuition is less expensive than out-of-state, and state schools are generally less expensive than private schools. Visit www.va-careerview.org.

_____10. Start saving because graduate school can be expensive. Usually, a higher level of education means a higher level of income. Doctors, lawyers, and professors, plus many Wall Street-types, have masters or doctoral degrees. Admittance to a program usually involves analysis of undergraduate transcripts, some standardized placement tests plus letters of recommendation and personal statements. If this path isn’t carefully planned, the student may lack some of the criteria for entering graduate school.

_____11. The armed forces employ more than combat personnel. There are thousands of careers available within the army, marines, navy, air force, and coast guard – from meteorologists and dentists to engineers and entertainers. Best of all, the 10,000 courses offered are free.

Choose from the paths listed below:

- A. Military
- B. Apprenticeship
- C. Graduate School
- D. Career and technical programs within high schools
- E. On the Job training straight out of high school
- F. Four-year colleges or universities
- G. Private career schools
- H. Job shadowing
- I. Mentorship
- J. Cooperative education
- K. Career technical training within community colleges.

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Activity 2 – Getting To Know You

Real exploration really begins with getting to know you. Our educational path can be a journey to ourselves. Start by discussing the following questions.

What are your favorite courses?

What extracurricular activities do you enjoy most?

What do you like to do with family or friends?

Which of your special skills are most valuable to you? Why?

What achievements make you most proud?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What are your favorite hobbies and interests?

What do you like to do with your free time?

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Activity 3 – High School Planning

Planning for high school can be a lengthy process? How far along into the process are you? Check off the statements that are true.

_____ I know what the state and local graduation requirements are, and I have incorporated those in to my high school course plan.

_____ I know what courses are required for my educational and career future. I have included those in to my high school plan.

_____ I am aware of career interest activities and programs offered at my high school and I have included those in to my high school plan.

_____ I am familiar with exams required for further education or entry into my career.

_____ I know what kind of future education and training I need for my career and the steps I have to take to get it.

_____ I am aware of the cost of education after high school and the steps I must take to finance it.

_____ Other things to consider or accomplish during high school:

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Activity 5: Quote for Discussion

We're all destined to leave some kind of mark. I really believe that. But I also believe we miss our marks from time to time, and without a certain push in the right direction we might never find the path we were meant to follow.

Denzel Washington

Read the quote. What do you think the author was trying to say? Do you agree with Mr. Washington? Explain why you agree or disagree.