overview

Building your career is one of the surest ways to increase income. When planning for the future, one of the most critical financial decisions is determining your career path.

In this lesson, students will be encouraged to consider various topics related to career planning and the financial aspects of employment. This variation of the decision-making process can help a person match personal abilities and interests with appropriate employment opportunities.

“How does a person apply for a job?” This is a question asked by many students. First, students are informed of sources for identifying available employment positions. Next, various aspects of interviewing are discussed, as well as information on preparing for a job interview and tips for successful interviewing.

Then, financial aspects of employment are considered, including employee benefits and the "hidden costs" of working. Finally, for students who have not worked in the past, information is offered about payroll taxes and other deductions from a person’s income.

goals

Gain an understanding of career planning and the processes of employment, get tips on starting a new career, and practice reading and interpreting pay stubs.

lesson objectives

- Know the phases of the career-planning process
- Identify and apply for employment
- Understand the interview process
- Understand some of the hidden costs of a job
- Understand some of the benefits companies often offer employees
- Interpret a pay stub

presentation slides

- [2-A] the career planning process
- [2-B] preparing for a job interview
- [2-C] common interview questions
- [2-D] adding up the benefits
- [2-E] reading a pay stub
- [2-F] an example of paycheck deductions
student activities

2-1 Assessing Your Personal Interests and Abilities

2-2 Evaluating the Current Employment Market
   ■ Part-time summer employment
   ■ Career-entry positions
   ■ Advanced careers, employment field changes

2-3 Creating a Resume

2-4 Reading and Interpreting Pay Stubs
   ■ Have students answer the questions about the attached pay stubs
   ■ Discuss their answers

2-5 Lesson Two Quiz

For more information, please refer to the Appendix.
Learning activities in Lesson Two appropriate for varied target audiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>activity</th>
<th>teenagers (14-18)</th>
<th>young adults (19-25)</th>
<th>adults (26+)</th>
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<td>Student Activity 2-1</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Survey/Interview</td>
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the career planning process

- Phase 1: Assess your personal interests, abilities, and career goals.
- Phase 2: Evaluate the current employment market.
- Phase 3: Identify specific job opportunities.
- Phase 4: Apply for employment positions with the use of a resume or application letter.
- Phase 5: Interview for available positions.
- Phase 6: Obtain additional career training.

identifying and applying for employment positions

- Advertisements
- Personal contacts
- Business organizations
- The internet

the interview process

When preparing for a job interview, take the following actions:

1. When researching an organization, ask the following questions:
   - What are its main activities?
   - What types of jobs does it have?
   - What do the people who work there like about their employment situation?

2. Practice your interviewing skills:
   - Write out answers to possible interview questions.
   - Have someone interview you.

3. Prepare questions that you plan to ask:
   - What skills are needed for success in the organization?
   - What opportunities are available for continued learning

Conduct a Web search to identify sites that people can contact to obtain information on available job positions.

Have students present in class (or on video) examples of strong and weak actions in a job interview.
### The Hidden Costs of a Job

1. Transportation
2. Clothing
   - Uniforms
   - Nice clothing
3. Food
4. Child or Adult Care
5. Union Dues

### Adding Up the Benefits

1. Possible Job Benefits
   - Health, dental, and eye care insurance
   - Life insurance/disability insurance
   - Flexible spending account
   - Health savings account
   - Tax-deferred retirement plan
   - Paid vacation
   - Paid holidays
   - Parental leave
   - Stock purchase plan
   - Employee assistance plans
   - Employee fitness programs
   - Employee discounts
   - Tuition assistance or reimbursement

### Reading a Pay Stub

1. Pay Period
2. Gross Pay
3. Wage Deductions
   - Federal income tax
   - FICA (Social Security and Medicare)
   - Individual state or local income tax
   - Tax-free or tax-deferred benefits
4. Net Pay
### interpreting pay stubs

1. Interpret sample pay stubs

### lesson two quiz

*Quiz 2–5 is in the Student Activity section.*
*The answer key is at the end of this Teacher’s Guide.*
read and interpret pay stubs
answer key

directions
Answer the following questions using the attached pay stubs:

1. What is the name of Jane Brown's employer?
   *Hamburger Palace Enterprises, Inc.*

2. How much did Jane earn before taxes?
   *$120.00*

3. What is Jane's salary?
   *$6.00/hour*

4. List Jane's deductions.
   *Federal income tax, Social Security, Medicare, state income tax, meals*

5. What pay period does Peter Smith's check cover?
   *8/6/19 to 8/12/19*

6. How much federal income tax has been taken out of Peter's check so far during 2019?
   *$429.84*

7. How much did Peter contribute to a retirement plan from this paycheck?
   *$30.00*

8. How much is Peter's take-home pay?
   *$82.41*

9. Where does Mary Stone work?
   *Dance-o-Rama*

10. What is Mary’s salary?
    *$10,752*

11. How much money was deducted from Mary's paycheck?
    *$98.80*

12. How much has Mary been paid in total during 2019?
    *$5,824.00*
true-false

1. **T** The career planning process starts with assessing your personal interests, abilities, and goals.

2. **F** Interviewing is the final phase of the career planning process.

3. **T** Travel costs to work are considered to be “hidden” job costs.

4. **F** Worker’s compensation is a common employee benefit received by most workers.

5. **F** Gross pay results from deducting various deductions from your earnings.

multiple choice

6. **C** The first phase of the career planning process is to:

   A. identify specific job opportunities
   B. interview for available positions
   C. assess personal interests and abilities
   D. apply for employment positions

7. **A** After applying for an available position, the next step usually involves:

   A. interviewing
   B. obtaining training for necessary skills
   C. comparing employee benefits
   D. preparing a personal data sheet (resume)

8. **B** A hidden cost of a job might involve:

   A. gross pay
   B. uniform fees
   C. employee discounts
   D. retirement benefits

9. **D** Which of the following employee benefits would a working parent find most useful?

   A. stock options
   B. tax deferred retirement plan
   C. Social Security benefits
   D. parental leave

10. **C** A common deduction on a person’s pay stub would be:

    A. gross pay
    B. unemployment tax
    C. federal income tax
    D. excise tax

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case application

Sue Smith has worked for nine years in retail sales. She is considering going back to school to change career fields. What factors should be considered before making this decision? Sue should consider her personal interests and abilities as well as potential demand in the new career field. Next, she should assess if she can afford the time and money that may be required when making this career change. In addition, Sue should consider the impact of this decision on her personal well-being and that of family members.