

Career Exploration and Job Transitioning for Students with Disabilities

WebQuest Description: This lesson plan will help students with disabilities explore various career fields and to prepare for the work force once graduating from high school.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: Life Skills / Careers

Keywords: career, school-to-work, work-based learning, community-based instruction, volunteer, job transitioning, job placement, job coach, students with disabilities, resume builder, career tests

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Tasks

This WebQuest requires you to complete at least two career assessments to help you choose the career that best fits your personality and interests in the work place! You will learn valuable tips on building a perfect resume and how to have a successful interview experience. You will also take part in Career Center Visits, take a career class, and also participate in our community-based instruction program (volunteer work). Once the above requirements are fulfilled you will continue gaining work experience in the program by attending a career center for part of your school day or participate in the school-to-work program as one of your choices. You will keep track of your career exploration journey through a multimedia and digital story telling tool called "Voice Thread". The amount of time devoted to the program will depend on your individual goals you would like to accomplish.

Introduction

As you enter high school and begin to explore the many aspects of high school life you will also begin to think about What Next? You will be faced with the difficult challenge of what comes after high school? What are my goals? My interests? My career path? How do I get to the next step? This WebQuest will help guide you to and through some of those questions. This Webquest is intended to be one of the many tools and avenues you will explore throughout your road through high school. As one of the tools and resources to help you explore the many career path beyond high school, you will also be asked to do some volunteer work, participate in the community-based instruction program, take a career course, participate in building a resume and cover letter, and visit a career center. You will also be required to attend a vocational center, or participate in the school-to-work program during your final one or two years in high school. However, one step at a time. This WebQuest will enable and encourage you to make these tough decisions with the help of personality quizzes, resume builders, and helpful career tips.

Process

You will now begin the ten step process to completing the lesson. Please make sure you follow each step accordingly in order to receive full credit. Step One: Many of you may be unfamiliar with Work Based Learning Programs. To help you gain a better understanding of what this program is, I have provided a link as well as a video. The video gives tips on how to have the best experience in the work place and the benefits of taking part in the program. The link provided gives a more detailed explanation of the Work Based Program. Step Two: Prior to beginning the remaining steps I would like you to complete the following questions using a multimedia and digital story tell tool called Voice Thread. Voice Thread will allow you to create virtual interview skills and document your career exploration paths. You can record voice, text, audiofile, or video, create brief presentations, upload photos, create panoramas, slide shows, incorporate flicker, Youtube, and Facebook all around your career exploration and path. Complete the following questions: If you could have any job profession, what would it be? Do you feel a program in which you get to experience career life would be beneficial to you? Why or why not? Step Three: You will now complete the career assessments and career quiz located on the links below. Based on your answer to the above question, I want to see how your own personal career goals compare to the outcome of the personality/ career assessment. Please complete both assessments, to see if you receive the same result for both, as well as your answer to Step 2. You could also have different results for your response and both of the career assessments. In your Voice Thread record, text, or audiofile the results of your assessment and answer the following question: Based on the results, are you taking the quiz into consideration? or do you feel they don't explain your personality and career goals? Step Four: You will now visit the Career Center Corner located in the library on the first floor of the school. The Career Advisor will help you sign up for your Work Based Learning Program. This step is very important in order to be able to continue to the next step. I encourage you to visit the Career Center frequently, even as often as once a month! Step Five: At this point in the WebQuest, you should be starting your Work Based Learning Program. The program will take place once a week for approximately three to four hours; or depending on what you and your Career Advisor planned for your career goals and expectations. We will travel by bus to the nearest Work Based Learning site. Upon arrival you will have options of which job opportunity is right for you or what you feel comfortable with. Remember, the purpose of this step is not to match your career assessment quiz, but to gain work experience to build your resume. The Work Based Learning Program is a great way to gain real experience in the work force. You will continue this program throughout the year, with the opportunity to try other jobs at the university. Step Six: The next step is to attend our schools Job Fair. This will be a great way to learn about career opportunities you

may be interested in and to broaden your knowledge of the field! We will also begin our community-based instruction program. This will allow you to gain some experience with volunteer work throughout the community. We will do this at least once a month throughout the first two years of your high school experience. In Voice Thread, please record, video, text, or audio file three or more occupations that caught your interest and explain why you may consider them as a future career. If you could choose one of the professions to job shadow, which would it be? Step Seven: Now that you have gained some work experience at your Work Based Learning Program and Community-Based Instruction Program you will begin to compose a practice resume. Follow the link below in order to complete all of the requirements. Please print out the resume once completed. Step Eight: You will now work with a group of two to three other students using Voice Thread. Each of you will be given several common interview questions to ask each other. You will alternate roles being the interviewer and the individual being interviewed. Answer questions thoughtfully, as you will take place in a mock interview with an adult. This is your time to prepare and practice for the future! With Voice Thread this will allow you to record all of your experiences in a fun and interactive way. It is also a great way for others to view your path and for me to view your progress throughout your journey and make suggestions and comments. Step Nine: The interview process is a requirement for any job opportunity you may have. As you saw in the video, it's best to be respectful to your possible employer and to be prepared. Know what is appropriate for interviewers to ask, and also to have a good understanding of your individual rights. Remember, this is just a scenario put together for the WebQuest. Do not feel that mistake will be held against you, it is simply a way for you to prepare for future interviews. Each interview practice will take approximately ten to fifteen minutes. After the interview session, feel free to ask any questions you may have. Such as what you could improve on, what you did well, and any other tips they may have for you. Just remember to have fun and do your best! Step Ten: This is the last step to the Web Quest! Please turn in a final two paragraph paper, consisting of five sentences per paragraph (due dates will be discussed in class). The paragraphs should include: What was your original career goals and why? Was your career assessment similar or different? Has your outlook on your career goals changed since completing the career assessment, job fair, and Work Based Learning Program? Why or why not? Did you have a positive experience with this Web Quest? Why or why not? Have you learned any valuable information that you can use in the future? If so, what is the most important thing you have learned?

Evaluation

Below is the rubric to follow for the Web Quest lesson. Please make sure you fulfill all of the requirements in order to receive all of the 80 points. Comments: _____

Category and Score	5	10	15	20	Score
Completion of two career assessment quizzes	Only one assessment was completed; student did not complete the journal entry	Only one assessment was completed; completed journal entry	Both career assessments were completed; no journal entry	Both career assessments were completed; completed journal entry	_____/2 0
Meeting with Career Advisor; completing Work Based Learning Program; Participate in Community-Based Instruction Program(CBI)	Did not meet with advisor or participate in the Work Based Learning and CBI Programs	Met with the advisor; but did not follow through with the Work Based Learning or CBI Programs	Student met with Career Advisor; missed several Work Based Learning and CBI Programs	Student met with Career Advisor and attended all of the Work Based Learning Program days and CBI Programs	_____/2 0
Student completed the practice interview using Voice Thread, job fair, and completed the resume	Student did not complete the resume; did not attend any events	Student did not complete resume; only attended one of the required events	Student completed the resume; only attended on of the required events	Student completed the resume; attended both the job fair and practice interview	_____/2 0
Using Voice Thread did you completed all of the journal entry questions; turned in final two paragraph paper	Student did not complete journal entries or threads; did not turn in final paper	Student completed some of the journal entries or threads; did not complete final paper	Student completed journal entry or thread questions; completed most of the paper	Student completed journal entry or thread questions; completed both paragraphs of final paper	_____/2 0
				Total Score	_____ /80

Conclusion

Before you know it, you'll be graduating from high school and beginning your lifelong career in whatever you choose. Always remember to try your best and reach for your goals. Use the valuable information from this Web Quest in order to further your career goals. Remember, choose a career that interests you and is something you'll enjoy doing for the rest of your life!!

This Web Quest is intended for high school students with learning disabilities. Many of these individuals are seen as not being capable of working or having a career. The point of this lesson was to encourage these students to begin preparing for the future. This lesson provided them with several tools they may need in order to lead successful, independent lives once they graduate from high school. As a special educator it is your job to push these children to obtain all of their goals and dreams. Educate your students on the importance of their life goals and the benefits of having a fulfilling career. Career Exploration, Work Based Learning, Community-Based Learning, Volunteer, and School-to-Work programs are very helpful when beginning your students transition plan for the future.

Standards

*students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology-apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes; create original works as a means of personal or group expression// *Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others-interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media// *students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information-plan strategies to guide inquiry; process data and report results// *Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, operations, and other resources- *understand and use technology systems// *create original animation or video documenting school, community, or local events// *participate in a cooperative learning project in an online learning community// *integrate a variety of file types to create and illustrate a document or presentation// *collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions

Credits

*Nicole Miller, <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=143534>. *Gloria Belluardo, <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=146511>.

*<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/08/explore-careers-take-career-quiz.html> *<http://voicethread.com/> *www.googleimages.com *http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=GvMqLIHrvq

*<http://vimeo.com/26246351> *http://zunal.com/www.princetonreview.com/cte/quiz/career_quiz1.asp *<http://www.resumecoverletters.org/coverletter/>

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Other

This is an awesome project for your students with or without disabilities. Career exploration and transition is an important part of the high school experience. Students should have fun with this project while they are learning about themselves, their likes, and dislikes when it comes to career choices and transitioning from high school into the larger community and work force. This project is only part of their growth into young adulthood. This project is just the start of their journey through high school and their self-exploration