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|  | **First Steps: Understanding the World of Work through Career Technical Education** is a standard-based, CTE focused, career development curriculum for students in grades 7-8. The First Steps logo indicates instructional resources are aligned to the [First Steps Standards](https://cte.idaho.gov/Resource_Catalog/Program_Areas/Middle_School/TheIdahoMiddleSchoolCTEInitiative.pdf) and IDCTE approved! |

**First Steps Standard(s):** Domain 1: Self-Evaluation (Who am I?) 4. Identify Skills (What am I good at?) B. Work Ethic i. Define work ethic and explain its importance in the workplace.

**Career Activity Curriculum Topic:** What is Work Ethic?

**Learning Outcomes:** Student will be able to (SWBAT):

1. Define work ethic
2. Describe the importance of work ethic in the workplace/classroom

**Activity Summary:** This lesson will teach students what work ethic is and why it’s important in the workplace. Students will read an article and watch a video to provide context for why work ethic is important and critical to practice. Students will complete a self-evaluation of their own work ethic and they will practice identifying a strong work ethic in provided scenarios.

**Estimated Time:** One 45-minute class period

**Suggested Grade Level:** 7th or 8th Grade

**Materials Needed:**

* Teacher Materials: Computer/projector (with video player), slide deck, handouts (Assignment Sheet (1 per student) Article (1 per or class set))
* Student Materials: Pen/pencil, assignment sheet/handout

**Academic Vocabulary**

* **Work Ethic:** “Work ethic is a value based on hard work and diligence. It is also a belief in the moral benefit of work and its ability to enhance character.” [(Educalingo)](https://educalingo.com/en/dic-en/work-ethic)

**Introduction:** An important trait to develop as both a student and future employee is work ethic. People are not born with work ethic, instead, it is something that is developed over time. At the end of this lesson, you will have learned what work ethic is and why it's important in the workplace. You will also assess your own levels of work ethic, areas you could improve, and strategies to do so.

**Learning Activities/Procedures:** Use the slide deck.

1. Go through the slide deck on Work Ethic.
2. Watch the video, “Work Ethic, the Importance of Having a Strong Work Ethic at Work.” [Video Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XUD8v9xJ8I&feature=emb_logo)
3. After watching, have students write down two examples of their own work ethic (one weak, and one strong) on the top of their assignment sheet – give opportunities to share if desired (support by providing examples of your own).
4. On the “Work Ethic Self-Assessment” slide, ask students if they want to share when they’re rating themselves – give adequate time for students to be thoughtful and honest with their assessment.
5. When presenting the three “Work Ethic in the Workplace” scenarios, prompt students for discussion. Evaluate each situation separately – use the “notes” for instructors to help.
6. Following these discussions, have students complete the “Work Ethic Self-Reflection” on their assignment sheet.
7. When most students are finished with the reflection, start a 5–10-minute timer for a timed-write. This will give students the opportunity to reflect, justify, and reason through some of the ratings.
8. Provide each student a copy of the article “Tips to Improve Your Work Ethic” (if you chose to not print as part of the assignment). Project the article on your screen and have students take turns reading. (Consider: annotating, underlining, or creating connections together while you read).
9. Complete the reading questions on the Assignment Sheet and discuss takeaways from the article.
10. Exit Ticket: Have students write answers to the following questions on their assignment sheet: What is one area where you can improve your work ethic? What specific step(s) can you take to improve in this area?

**Accommodations/Adaptations/Extensions:**

**Accommodation:** Play video with subtitles, provide definitions or handout for language that may be unfamiliar, allow for work with a partner or positive peer, read the article aloud or complete guided annotation.

**Adaptation: Virtual:** Students could complete the self-reflection using a Google Form; Incorporate an element of how different environments can change a person’s work ethic (virtual vs. in-person learning); Publish article to a Google Doc or Kami, so students can annotate virtually.

**Extension:** Students could ask a teacher or parent/guardian for honest feedback on what they observe about the student’s work ethic. They could then create an additional work ethic goal based on the feedback, or compare/contrast the assessment someone else provided vs. their own.

**Evaluation:** Students will complete and submit the assignment sheet with a completed reflection and conclusion questions.

**Closing:** A good work ethic is necessary to be successful in school and work, and at home. People are not born with a work ethic, and it can be developed and improved upon when we become aware of where we’re lacking. It is important to be aware of your own work ethic and ways in which you can improve them.

**Resources/References:**

Article From: Monster.com:<https://www.monster.com/career-advice/article/work-ethic>