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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 (ii) Define and explain the importance of diligence, dependability, responsibility, and accountability in the workplace (iii) Demonstrate diligence (iv) Demonstrate dependability (v) Demonstrate responsibility (vi) Demonstrate accountability (vii) Document a reflection about personal work ethic after demonstrating diligence, dependability, responsibility, and accountability.

**Career Activity Curriculum Topic:** Evaluating My Work Ethic

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

1. Define work ethic
2. Explain and reflect on the four main actions of work ethic

**Activity Summary:** This lesson will help students apply their understanding of work ethic to realistic and familiar scenarios. It will give them an understanding and application of the four main actions of work ethic. They will be able to evaluate which areas of work ethic they do well at, and which ones could be considered areas for growth.

**Estimated Time:** One45-60-minute class period

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

**Materials Needed:**

* Teacher Materials: Computer/project, slide deck, handout (Assignment Sheet (1 per student))
* Student Materials: Pen/pencil, assignment sheet

**Academic Vocabulary:**

* **Work Ethic:** a person's attitude to work, especially the idea that hard work is a good habit and should be rewarded
* **Workplace:** any place where work is done systematically
* **Diligence:** “Careful and thorough work or effort”
* **Dependability:** “The quality of being able to be relied on to do what somebody wants or needs” **Responsibility:** “The duty of having to take care of or deal with somebody/something”
* **Accountability:** “Being responsible for one’s decisions or actions and expected to explain them when asked”
* **Scenario:** An imagined situation

\*\*Definitions sourced from: https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/

**Introduction:** For this activity, you will learn about four important actions of work ethic. These actions are Diligence, Dependability, Responsibility, and Accountability. You will learn the definition of each of these actions and practice applying and recognizing them in your own life. You will reflect on your own work ethic and which qualities and actions are most important to you.

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

1. Go through the slide deck on “Evaluating Your Work Ethic”
2. As you go through them, students should copy down the basic definitions for the four actions on their assignment sheets.
3. Pause between each action to discuss where/how they see this action in their own lives and why it is valuable.
4. Have students complete/consider the statements for self-assessment. They rank each one in accordance with their own behaviors. You may choose whether to discuss these statements with partners/as a class, etc.
5. Introduce conflict (particularly in the workplace) and how these four actions can help to effectively resolve those conflicts.
6. Provide directions for the scenario activity. Choose ahead of time if students will work independently, with partners, in groups, or as a whole class to decide what action to take for each scenario.
7. Remind students that they are still responsible for recording the decision made AND which of the important actions are used.
8. Provide adequate time and discussion for each scenario and welcome differing opinions from students, encourage them to think through each scenario completely.
9. At the end, give students a few minutes to finish recording their thoughts and answers for the scenarios and then have them answer the four “My Work Ethic Reflection” questions on their assignment sheet.

**Questions:**

* Which of the 4 work ethic components were you best at showing?
* Which of the 4 work ethic components did you struggle with showing?
* Why is it important to show all 4 work ethic components in the workplace?
* How do you get better at showing all 4 in the workplace?

**Accommodations/Adaptations/Extensions:**

**Accommodations:** Have students only complete one or two of the scenarios or allow for completion in groups with thorough discussion and de-briefing (this would be suitable for completing the lesson in a shorter amount of time or for students with accommodations); consider offering printed copies of the scenarios for students to look at and utilize.

**Adaptations:** Virtual: Post the scenarios in discussion boards in your online classroom and have students respond to the scenario (and each other) using similar guidelines.

**Extensions:** Create a Scenario: After you have worked through the scenarios with students, have them create their own and trade with a partner to solve or work through; Role Play: Have the students act out given scenarios and certain reactions to said scenarios.

**Evaluation:** Students will submit the completed Assignment Sheet.

**Closing:** Now that you’ve applied work ethic skills to real, and imagined, situations, you have a greater understanding of how these kinds of skills can transfer to countless different parts of your life. Work ethic is important in school-life to home-life and eventually where you end up working in your career path. If you can practice these skills in one area, you will improve in other areas too!

**Resources/References: N/A**