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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 2: Career Exploration (What’s out there for me?) 1. Make Responsible Choices (How do my choices influence my future?) 1. Describe how personal, career, and educational choices impact major life decisions. 2. Describe how your personal choices will affect workplace, school, and community. 3. Discuss the need for continuous career planning.

**Career Activity Curriculum Topic: Your Choices Are Powerful!**

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

1. Describe how their personal choices have an impact on their future.
2. Explain why future, and career planning should be subject to change.

**Activity Summary:** In this lesson, students will evaluate how their choices have an impact on many different

areas of their life. They will consider educational, career, and personal choices and how they translate into

major life decisions. They will also reflect on how their choices affect their many environments. Finally, they will

use these reflections to consider the importance of career planning in your life.

**Estimated Time:** Two45 - 60-minute class periods

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

**Materials Needed:**

* Teacher Materials: Computer/projector, slide deck, handout (Assignment Sheet (1 per student), Scenarios (1 per student/group/partner set) article (1 per student if hard copies are desired)), “Once Upon A Time” story narrative for values activity
* Student Materials: Pen/pencil, blank sheet of paper (values activity), assignment sheet, article, device with web access

**Academic Vocabulary:** N/A

**Introduction:** Your personal values play a large role in the decisions you make on a day-to-day basis, and on the goals that you set for yourself in your own life. In this lesson, you will investigate what you value most, and how that plays a role in the decisions you make. You will also reflect on how your decisions and choices will have an impact on other areas of your life and those around you. By the end, you will understand how using your values and decision-making skills to practice continuous career planning can benefit you long-term.

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

**DAY 1**

1. Go through the slide deck on “Making Responsible Choices”
2. On the assignment sheet, have students complete the “Do Now,” give them about 5 minutes to brainstorm and write, then discuss.
3. Read one (or both) of the articles provided (can be completed individually, as a class, with partners, etc.).
4. When students are done with their articles, they should answer the reading questions on their assignment sheet. Use the questions to prompt your discussion of values, decisions, and how going with or against our values can present challenges to us.
5. Have students rip/cut their blank sheet of paper into 16 pieces (big enough to write 1-2 words on) –You can show them how to fold the paper so all the pieces are equal, but it’s not essential to the activity.
6. Have them write one word per paper and separate their squares into five piles based on the categories listed. Emphasize that they can’t group people, “family” “friends” “basketball team” and that they can include pets in people or objects. Other than that, they can put the things that matter most to them in each category.
7. Read the story “Once Upon a Time” to the class. Stop after each step and let students process the instructions. At the end, students should be left with ONE item. It can be helpful to stop and count periodically.

**\*\*Note:** some students may react in an intense way. Continue to remind students that this is an activity and a simulation. The goal is to help us see the things that we care about and value the most in our lives.

1. Have students complete the follow up questions before you discuss the activity. This will give time for everyone to process their own thoughts/values without the impact of others.
2. Discuss the questions/activity with students – make sure to connect this process with understanding our values and how that can affect the decisions we make in all areas of our lives.

**END DAY 1**

**DAY 2**

1. Have students complete the “Do Now.” They can put any goals/wishes for the future on the list, but there must be steps that have to be taken to get there. Encourage them to think realistically about time, money, and sacrifice involved in our decisions.
2. Review the slide regarding “Workplace Decision Making” consider opening the floor to students sharing how their own values could impact their decisions at work.
3. **SCENARIO ACTIVITY:** You may choose to complete this as partners, groups, or individual. Students will read through four different scenarios (workplace/school based) and decide the best action to take.

\*\*This slide was originally created to use with Pear Deck. If this tool works for your classroom, feel free to insert it.

1. For each scenario, allow for discussion and differing opinions. Continue to show students that different people will react differently as a result of what they value most in their own life.
2. Reflection: Complete on a virtual classroom platform, on PearDeck, as a Kahoot, etc. Bring students full circle and discuss how the knowledge of these things can lead us to more productive career-planning.

**Accommodations/Adaptations/Extensions:**

**Accommodation:** Provided an annotated copy of the story, read-aloud, or provide shortened reading questions. Make sure definitions of “value” and “moral” are available for students, require only 2-3 of the reflection questions on the values activity and allow for opt-out.

**Adaptation:** Virtual: Create a step-by-step PowerPoint or Flipgrid of the “Once Upon A Time” story for students to use to complete the values activity. Students will complete the scenarios individually or they scenarios could be discussion topics for a forum/discussion board for students to engage in.

**Extension:** Students can take the work values quiz on Next Steps to increase their understanding  
[Values Quiz](https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/work-values/quiz) students can read an additional article about values and life choices: [The Power of Choices](https://agoodcause.com/the-power-of-choices-how-choices-can-influence-your-life-and-future/#:~:text=We%20can%20influence%20our%20destiny,well%2Dbeing%20for%20the%20better)

**Evaluation:** Students will complete and submit the assignment sheet and ending reflection.

**Closing:** Values play a large role in the decisions that you make in your day-to-day life. Having an

understanding of the impact these choices have on you (and the different areas of life: education, family,

finance, etc.) can help to become more successful at career-planning and preparing for the future.

**Resources/References:**

* <https://agoodcause.com/the-power-of-choices-how-choices-can-influence-your-life-and-future/#:~:text=We%20can%20influence%20our%20destiny,well%2Dbeing%20for%20the%20better>.
* <https://www.econedlink.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/On-the-Job-Scenarios.pdf>
* <https://hbr.org/2017/10/7-tricky-work-situations-and-how-to-respond-to-them>