American School Counselor Association's Domain:

Career Development

**Standard A:** Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.

**Competency 1. Develop Career Awareness**

*Indicator a.* Develop skills to locate, evaluate, and interpret career information

**Standard B:** Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.

**Competency 1. Acquire Career Information**

*Indicator f.* Learn to use the Internet to access career-planning information

**Competency 2. Identify Career Goals**

*Indicator a.* Demonstrate awareness of the education and training needed to achieve career goals

**ACTIVITY:** Where Am I Going?

**TARGET GROUP:** Middle School (end of 6th/beginning of 7th grade)

**GOAL:** Students will crosswalk their interests and values with career choices.

**SUMMARY:**

**MATERIALS:**

- Instructor Notes
- Computers with Internet access for students
- Computer with the ability to project onto a large screen for the instructor
- Projector
- Worksheet: *Where Am I Going? Crosswalking Interests and Values with Career Choices*

**STRATEGIES**

- Introduction to the subject (see Instructor Notes, Section I).
• Administer the pre-test (see Evaluation Tool below).

• Distribute the worksheet and introduce the activity steps (see Instructor Notes, Section II).

• Monitor the students’ work to ascertain they are correctly gathering the required data on three careers.

• When all students have completed Part I—Career Choices, ask several students to share the career titles they chose and what interested them about these careers.

• Introduce Part II—Comparing Projected Wages (see Instructor Notes, Section III).

• Monitor the students’ work on the computer and assist as needed.

• When all students have completed Part II, have the students share their reactions:
  1. What was it like to participate in these activities?
  2. Do you feel the information you gained from the first activity reflects your career interests? Explain why or why not.
  3. Are your career interests in line with your projected lifestyle according to the second activity? Explain why or why not.
  4. What do you need to do or consider if they are not?

• Facilitate a discussion on the last question asking the students for suggestions.

• Administer the post-test (see Evaluation Tool below).

• Closing statements (see Instructor Notes, Section IV).

**ESTIMATED TIME:** 2 class periods

**EVALUATION TOOL:** Pre/Post Test

Identify three occupational titles that reflect one or more of your interest areas.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
WHERE AM I GOING?
CROSSWALKING INTERESTS & VALUES WITH CAREER CHOICES
WORKSHEET*

PART 1 – Career Choices

• Go to California CareerZone at http://www.cacareerzone.org
• Scroll to top of page and click on “Explore”
• Scroll down to and click on “Quick Assessment”
• Use your Holland Code results from the “Lets Party” exercise, and in the box labeled “You Have Chosen,” select your first choice from the “Let’s Party,” exercise in box 1, select your second choice in box 2, and select your third choice in box 3. (Your “Let’s Party Holland Codes may be found in your “My Stuff” account on the California Career Center website under “Student Activities” on the worksheet “Middle School Putting It All Together.”)
• Click on “View Results”

A list of jobs will appear that reflect one or more areas from your Holland Code. Scroll through the occupational options presented on the screen. Investigate several occupations by reading the resource material. Find three occupations that look interesting, prioritize them with the most interesting first, if there is a video available, watch it, and then complete the following:

Occupation Title (first choice):

___________________________________________________

About the Job: In your own words, describe what this job is all about:

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Interest Codes

Compare your Interest Codes from your “Let’s Party” assessment with the Interest Codes for this occupation and list those that match below:

___________, ___________, __________

Work Values

Compare the work values for this occupation with the three highest priority work values from your “Putting It All Together” worksheet; list those that match below:

____________________________________________________________________
Describe the Education Required:

______________________________________________________________________

Wage (list the annual wage):

______________________________________________________________________

Occupation Title (second choice):

________________________________________________

About the Job: In your own words, describe what this job is all about:

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Interest Codes

Compare your Interest Codes from your “Let’s Party” assessment with the Interest Codes for this occupation and list those that match below:

___________, ___________, __________

Work Values

Compare the work values for this occupation with the three highest priority work values from your “Putting It All Together” worksheet; list those that match below:

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Describe the Education Required:

______________________________________________________________________

Wage (list the annual wage):

______________________________________________________________________

Occupation Title (third choice):

________________________________________________

About the Job: In your own words, describe what this job is all about:

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________
**Interest Codes**

Compare your Interest Codes from your “Let’s Party” assessment with the Interest Codes for this occupation and list those that match below:

___________, ___________, __________

**Work Values**

Compare the work values for this occupation with the three highest priority work values from your “Putting It All Together” worksheet; list those that match below:

____________________________________________________________________

Describe the **Education Required:**

____________________________________________________________________

**Wage** (list the annual wage):

____________________________________________________________________

**PART 2 – Comparing Projected Wages and Lifestyle Preferences**

- Return to the California CareerZone home page at [http://www.cacareerzone.org](http://www.cacareerzone.org)
- Choose “Making Money Choices”
- Under “Get Started,” select “Choose Your Lifestyle”
- Under “Where do you want to live?” enter a zip code or select a county where you want to live
- Make your lifestyle choices, review your decisions in the summary section, and complete the following:
  1. Indicate the “Annual Salary Needed” to match your lifestyle choices.
     ______________
  2. Did the “Annual Salary Needed” match any of the “Wage” earnings you listed for the three occupations you chose to explore?
     Yes or No. If the answer is “Yes,” identify the occupation or occupations where the wage was within your desired lifestyle.
     ______________
  3. In general, are your career interests in line with your projected lifestyle? Explain.
     ______________
  4. What do you need to do or consider if they are not?
     ______________

* Adapted from California Career Resource Network, California Career Zone.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
INSTRUCTOR NOTES ON CROSSWALKING TO CAREERS

I. Introduction to the subject:
Exploring careers is an important skill to learn. Most people spend more than half of their waking hours, five days a week at a job. Finding work options that reflect what you like doing (interests) and what you think is important (values) is vital to being happy and content in a work situation. During today’s activity, you will investigate occupations that fit you—occupations where your interests and your work values are reflected in specific jobs. This information will help you use your occupational choices to inform choices you make about school subjects and activities, educational options and training, and transitioning from middle school to high school and beyond.

II. Worksheet comments: Part I—Career Choices
Once every student has a worksheet, explain and demonstrate the following:
• How to work through the assigned steps.
• Using a computer that projects onto a large screen, choose one career and scroll down indicating the information needed for each category on the handout.
• Ask if there are any questions.

III. Worksheet comments: Part II—Comparing Projected Wages and Lifestyle Preferences
Once you are earning a wage, you will be making decisions regarding how you want to spend your earnings. You will be establishing a lifestyle where your purchasing power will reflect where you live, what you will spend on food, clothing, entertainment, technology, and savings. In order to make informed decisions, you need to know how much these things cost and compare them to the lifestyle you want to attain. Get a reality check by Making Money Choices.

When all students have completed Part II, have the students share their reactions:
1. What was it like to participate in these activities?
2. Do you feel the information you gained from the first activity reflects your career interests? Explain why or why not.
3. Are your career interests in line with your projected lifestyle according to the second activity? Explain why or why not.
4. What do you need to do or consider if they are not?

IV. Closing statements:
Assessment instruments help you understand your career needs and possibilities. Once these have been linked to specific career choices, you have begun the process of making well-informed decisions about your future. During the next activity, you will learn how to set educational and career goals. This skill is invaluable. To be ready for the next activity, you need to record your top three career choices in “Putting It All Together.” Do the following:
Go to the California Career Center website’s homepage at
http://www.calcareercenter.org/
Click on “Logon” and do so
Click on “My Stuff”
Scroll to and click on “Student Activities”
Find “Middle School Putting It All Together”
In the section on “My Assessments” enter your three top career choices under the title “My Career Choices,” save it, and log off.

V. COLLECTING RESULTS DATA:

Process Data: Number of students who participated in the lesson.

Perception Data: Pre/post test results determine the knowledge gained as a result of identifying three career choices reflective of individual interests (short-term data).