

Lesson Plan

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During each school year we host a Career Fair at our middle school. We always have the standard employment ideas: doctor, lawyer, veterinarian, cosmetology, etc. These are all wonderful paths to pursue, but I think it is important to incorporate what I have learned during my internship into this year's fair. Along with our normal featured careers, I will be approaching my principal about introducing the following additional "booths."

Work Ethic

At this booth students will be asked what they think "work ethic" means. After they answer, discuss how they are correct or incorrect. Define work ethic as hard work done well with perseverance. Then ask the students what they think the word perseverance means. Give them a few minutes to think/about and discuss. Explain that perseverance is working hard and never giving up. On a large backdrop, have the word perseverance pre-written. Allow students to write on this backdrop phrases that people who demonstrate perseverance might say. Some examples include: "Don't give up, you'll get it!" "I can do it!" "Hang in there, don't stop!" After this activity, students will be taught the "10,000 hour rule"— Did you know that studies found that the best artists, musicians, swimmers and skaters practiced at least 10,000 hours, or ten years, to reach their success? Success is all a matter of how hard you work. The final activity in this booth will be role playing scenarios, custom-fit for each student group to demonstrate good work ethic. The large poster with "perseverance" and student's hand-written phrases will be displayed in the hallway as a constant reminder of what is necessary to demonstrate good work ethics.

Job Skills for ANY Type of Job

This booth will consist of many role playing scenarios where the students will use the job skills necessary to have a good outcome. Discuss the following job skills: friendliness, attentiveness, attention to detail, politeness, respect (both to employer and customers), ability to work well with others, job completion, timeliness, conflict resolution, ability to follow rules (and any others you might want to add). Explain to students that it is not just the degree you have or the technical skills you bring to a job when you are hired. Employers are also looking for those people who demonstrate the above qualities in their everyday job performance. As a librarian who works with student aides on a daily basis, and as an employer (I own and manage Bubble Gum & Blue Jeans), these qualities are severely lacking in today's younger generation. I have experienced this first hand and feel that students just need to be taught about this. While some will quickly dismiss these discussions, many will take them in and learn from them when they are just made aware of the proper way.