



Lesson 1

Grow Up!

Instructor's Guide

E-Lesson Standards: (1) Identify choices and actions that could impede a successful transition to adulthood and a successful career; (2) Describe the challenges faced by individuals whose lives and careers were sidetracked due to poor choices.

E-Lesson Correlations: critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making

Teacher's Corner

Students can run into many obstacles on their way to developing the adult attitudes and behaviors that are necessary for a productive and successful life and career. This lesson deals with the concept of adulthood and some of the stumbling blocks students face including single parenthood, dropping out of school, and substance abuse.

Some students believe that adolescence is their time to indulge in risky behavior. Teens may be accustomed to immediate forgiveness, a slap on the wrist, and encouragement to try harder next time. When they find that bad choices and poor behavior may have lasting and sometimes irreversible effects on their careers and lives, it comes as a great shock.

Activity Preview

Each activity in today's lesson is briefly described below to give you an overview.

Grow Up! Alan's adolescent behavior and attitude toward work rubs his co-workers the wrong way. Students are asked to identify three adult traits that Alan can acquire to change his co-workers' opinions.

To expand the activity, ask students what personal characteristics and behaviors might be considered immature in the workplace.

What Makes an Adult? Becoming an adult doesn't occur because one reaches a certain age, becomes independent, or has a career and family. Students are asked to describe adulthood.

Broaden the activity by asking students to compare their present characteristics with those of adults they know. What are the similarities? What are the differences? What rewards do students expect from adulthood and a career?

One Mistake, One Doomed Career Short histories are given of people whose decisions resulted in life-long consequences. Students are asked to express their opinions and make recommendations about the issues presented.

Adolescents often have difficulty seeing outcomes in the future. The stories in this lesson involve substance abuse, teen parenthood, and dropping out of school. Expand the activity by asking students to envision the obstacles that would be created in their lives and careers by other poor decisions, such as running away from home, joining gangs, or breaking the law, for example, receiving a citation for Driving Under the Influence or breaking and entering.



Related Web Site

The following Web site includes a work interest quiz and a personality test as well as sections on finding a job after high school, a practical money management guide, a career toolbox and more.

<http://www.myfuture.com/index.php>

Solutions to Activities

Students may provide varying responses to some answers. Accept all appropriate ones.

Grow Up!

Possible answers include:

Taking responsibility for being punctual

Developing a realistic self-image and skill assessment

Being self-sufficient and learning required tasks

What Makes an Adult?

Student answers will vary. This is a good opportunity to learn how students view adulthood so you can help them with appropriate expectations.

Solutions to Activities (Continued)

One Mistake, One Doomed Career

1. Students' answers will vary. Students need to recognize that commercial drivers are in control of 80,000 pounds in motion on the country's highways.
2. Possible answers are: Sense of independence, control over his career choice, reputation, friends, self-esteem, identity
- 3-5. Accept all appropriate answers.

Love Won't Feed the Baby

Student' answers will vary. Suggestions are given.

1. How will a baby affect my life? Can I count on my partner to stay with me? Where will we get enough money to live? Will I be sorry for my decision in a few years?
2. Possible answers include:
 - b. Katie and Rob didn't recognize the cost of caring for a family or the difficulty of managing money until they had the experience of trying to be self sufficient.
 - c. Katie and Rob underestimated the results of daily stress on a relationship.
 - d. Katie and Rob never thought about the possibility of being socially isolated from their friends.
 - e. Katie and Rob didn't recognize the difficulty of continuing their education and trying to plan for a career after parenthood.

Solutions to Activities (Continued)

Active and Passive Decision Making

1. Katie and Rob can decide to set up guidelines for their relationship that will benefit both them and the baby.
2. Katie and Rob can decide to set up timelines and definite dates for accomplishing certain goals such as Katie's GED and career counseling for Rob.
3. Katie and Rob can decide to meet and network with other young working parents who face the same problems.
4. Katie and Rob can both decide to seek out adults they respect and ask for advice. They can also decide to seek professional counseling.
5. Katie and Rob can decide to learn to manage both time and money more efficiently.

Related Materials

It's for Real Workplace Ethics follows five students who attend school full time and work part time. At work, they encounter ethical dilemmas that your students must solve. Series I and II follow one group of students and Series III and IV follow another group. Series IV focuses on the ethics of the employer.

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