

Keeping Your Options Open
7th Grade Advisement Activity
Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes

Georgia's Teachers-As-Advisors Framework

Goal: 10-2.3 Identify and participate in ongoing, lifelong-learning experiences to enhance the ability to perform effectively and work in a diverse and changing world.

Competencies: Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for successful transition from one learning level to the next

Objectives: Students will understand the need to prepare in middle and high school to prepare for postsecondary education.

Materials: 2 pages/print front and back

- "Family Wage Jobs Quiz"
- "Tips for Keeping Your Options Open"

Activity:

1. *Say:* Welcome to advisement. I am glad to see you. I hope all is going well with you and your family. Let's get started with today's activity. Do you know what a family wage job is? *Wait for answers.* It's a job that pays enough to support a family! *Ask:* But what does that mean? *Wait for answers.* *Ask:* Someone calculate what someone earning minimum wage would make for one week, one month, or one year of work. (Georgia minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour) OR you can calculate showing the math process on the board or on a flip chart. *Ask:* Is that enough money to pay rent or a mortgage? Enough to afford a car? *Then say:* Most jobs that pay more than minimum wage require some level of education and/or training after high school.
2. *Distribute the handout, "Family Wage Jobs Quiz.* *Say:* Divide into teams of 3-4 (easiest way is to count off by threes or fours to create teams). In your teams answer Part A. You will have about 5 minutes to reach a consensus on the answers. *After 5 minutes say:* Right! They are all true. *Ask:* Why is education after high school important? Yes, one has the potential to make more money.
3. *Say:* Now in your teams complete Part B of the handout. You will have about 6-7 minutes to reach a consensus on the answers. *Review their answers.* *Ask:* Were any of you surprised about any of the jobs? *Answers:* A, C, B, B, C,B,B,A,B,A
4. *Say:* You may think you are still a long way from high school or graduation----but the work you do today matters. *Distribute the handout "Tips for Keeping Your Options Open".* *Review with students and ask them to share this with their parents.*
5. *Close saying:* Your earning potential will be greatly enhanced if you plan to continue your education and the level of education you will need will depend on a career choice. Good career planning is the key to making the right choices while in middle and high school. As you grow and change, you may change your mind so it is important to keep planning! See you next time we meet or before. Have a great day!

Family Wage Jobs Quiz:

Part A. Why do you need more than a high school diploma? In your group answer the following questions.

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|---------------|--|
| True or False | Most family wage jobs require education after high school. |
| True or False | Just one year of college can increase lifetime earnings by 15%. |
| True or False | On average, college graduates have lower rates of unemployment than high school graduates. |
| True or False | College graduates have more jobs to choose from. |
| True or False | Over a lifetime, a college graduate can expect to earn one million more than a high school graduate. |



Part B. Nearly all jobs today require some education and training after high school. But not every job requires a 4-year college degree. In your group match the jobs below to the level of postsecondary education (that is, education after high school) they require.

A= 1 year or less after high school	B= 1-2 years	C= 4 years	D= More than 4 years
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- _____ Automotive Parts Specialist
- _____ Carpenter
- _____ Computer Information Systems Specialist
- _____ Electrician
- _____ Engineer
- _____ Graphic Designer
- _____ Licensed Practical Nurse
- _____ Medical Transcriptionist
- _____ Paralegal
- _____ Pharmacy Technician

Keeping Your Options Open

Tips for Students:

What you do today matters!

The work you do during middle and high school will determine your future. Listed below are some tips that can help you keep your options open so you can meet your goals. Share these with your family. Check off the ones you can do!



Achieve in school

- _Attend class every day and make sure you're prepared
- _Pay attention during class
- _Join in class discussions. Show your teachers what you know
- _Ask questions. If you don't understand something, be sure to ask
- _Keep up with your assignments. Set a schedule for big projects and do a little each day before the deadline
- _Check your assignments before turning them in to make sure they're correct
- _Study with a friend or a tutor if you do better working with others
- _Find a quiet, organized place to study

Get Involved

- _Join at least one activity at school that interests you.
- _Find out if you can volunteer at school—to help a teacher or tutor a younger student.
- _Get involved in activities and organizations in your neighborhood.

Explore Your Interest

- _Start thinking about what you'd like to be when you grow up.
- _Learn about career possibilities using *GACollege411* under the CAREER PLANNING tab
- _Read something every day: newspapers, blogs, books, or magazines.
- _Discuss your goals and dreams for your future with your family and your advisor

Lean How to Get From Here....To Your Future with information!

- _Utilize www.Gacollge411.org to create your plan of study.
- _Look for additional education and career information at other web sites: www.mappingyourfuture.org and www.KnowHow2Go.org