



KEVIN J FLEMING

# PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

4 SKILLS & 4 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

TOPIC: PREPARING FOR HIGH WAGE JOBS (LESSON 2 OF 4)



4 SKILLS  
STEPS  
LESSON PLAN

# PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL:

4 Skills & 4 Steps to a Successful Career

## TOPIC PREPARING FOR HIGH WAGE JOBS (LESSON 2 OF 4)

### Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8-12.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8-12.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.

### OVERVIEW

Many students believe that getting any college degree will assure them a higher paying job. While not necessarily incorrect, this assumption does not take into account each individual's skills and abilities or the wide range of salaries for each job type. No one is perfectly average, it is much better to compare salary ranges based on skills and abilities rather than the average salary to help determine potential career paths. Students should also take into account the cost of higher education, both in time and money, when considering their potential careers.

### MATERIALS

- Computer with internet access for teacher with projection capabilities
- Projector and screen
- Copy of the video "Four Skills, Four Steps Lesson 2"
- Set of worksheets "What Can You Make?" for the class
- Class set of computers or other computing devices (i.e. tablets) with internet capabilities (High School Only)

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

AT THE END OF THIS LESSON, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Complete a worksheet to compare different salary ranges for a variety of jobs.
- Participate in a small group discussion about salary ranges. (Middle School Only)
- Participate in a whole class discussion about how skills and abilities effect the salary you can expect to earn. (Middle School Only)
- Complete research about salary ranges and education levels for two jobs that are personally interesting. (High School Only)
- Participate in a whole class discussion about skills and abilities and how they can effect what they can expect to earn. Discuss also the higher education needed for careers, and the cost of obtaining that education. (High School Only)

### ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

- **Average:** Not out of the ordinary, common. A number calculated by adding together all the numbers in a set and dividing by the amount of numbers in the set.
- **Wages:** A fixed regular payment made by an employer to an employee on a regular basis.
- **Wage Range:** The lowest to highest wage that an employee can make for a given job.
- **Average Wage:** A calculated wage based on the highest and lowest range of wages for a given job.

# TOPIC

## PREPARING FOR HIGH WAGE JOBS (PAGE 2)

### ACTIVITY



Estimated Time  
**50 Minutes**

The students will individually complete a comparing worksheet about different jobs and salary ranges. They will participate in small group and class discussions about the worksheet. (Middle School Only)

The students will individually complete a comparing worksheet about different jobs and salary ranges. They will use a computer with internet access to research two jobs they find personally interesting, finding both the education necessary and the wage range for that job. The students will participate in a whole class discussion about the previous work and about paying for the education to obtain those jobs. (High School Only)

## LESSON PROCEDURES (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL)

1. *Opening discussion: The teacher will introduce the lesson by asking about averages, what does it mean to be average? Is anyone perfectly average? Teacher will point out that everyone has different strengths and abilities, and that these will help you discover what types of jobs you will be successful in. The teacher will ask about earning a college degree, are you planning on getting one and why? Teacher will ask if the students believe that earning a college degree will ensure that they can make more money after school?*
2. *The students will watch the video "Four Skills, Four Steps Lesson 2"*
3. *The students will work on comparing wage ranges for different jobs and education levels on the worksheet "What Can You Make?"*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY

4. *The students will break up into small groups to discuss the worksheet. Was anything surprising about the types of jobs and the salaries? What do they think it shows about how skills and abilities effect what type of job you should get?*
5. *The students will participate in a whole class discussion about how skills and abilities can effect what you can expect to earn in your first career. The teacher can lead students in asking about continuing education after High School, is it necessary to go to college to earn a good living?*

**What can help determine whether college is a path you should take?**

### HIGH SCHOOL ONLY

4. *The students will research two jobs that they are interested in, finding out the education requirements and the salary ranges.*
5. *The teacher will lead a whole class discussion to wrap up the lesson. The teacher will ask about any surprises while completing the worksheet and their own research? Is the average wage always a good indicator of how much you can make based on skills and abilities? What about education level and the cost of earning that education? Glve examples of how much it would cost to attend a trade school, 2 year degree program, four year state university, private university. How does this cost effect the amount of money you would earn, based on paying back student loans?*

**Does it make sense to attend college just to earn a degree without a career goal?**

### FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- The worksheet "What Can You Make?"
- Participation in group and class discussion
- Individual research on two jobs (High School Only)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <http://www.californiacareers.info/#Lessons>
- <http://www.payscale.com>
- <http://www.onetonline.org>

### ADAPTATIONS/LESSON EXTENSIONS

- The worksheet and research could be completed in partners or groups for help if needed.
- Instead of individually researching jobs either groups or the whole class could participate in the research together. The teacher could also assign specific jobs to research instead of allowing the students to select their own.
- If there is time the high school students could also research the cost of higher education on their own or with a partner.

# WHAT CAN YOU MAKE?

## DIRECTION:

Use the information on wage ranges in the chart to compare the amount you can expect to make.

JOB	LOW SALARY	HIGH SALARY	EDUCATION
Computer programmer	\$35,000	\$90,000	Bachelors Degree
Mechanic	\$21,000	\$60,000	Associate Degree
Accountant	\$32,000	\$67,000	Bachelors Degree
Garbage Truck Driver	\$26,000	\$55,000	Trucking License
Ocean Engineer	\$37,000	\$130,000	Bachelors Degree
Carpenter	\$28,000	\$71,000	High School Diploma and Trade Certificates
Nurse	\$43,000	\$83,000	Associate Degree
Lawyer	\$48,000	\$176,000	Bachelors Degree and Law Degree
Translator	\$22,000	\$80,000	Bachelors Degree
Plumber	\$29,000	\$76,000	High School Diploma and Trade Certificates

1. An excellent plumber \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end lawyer \_\_\_\_\_
2. An excellent nurse \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end ocean engineer \_\_\_\_\_
3. An excellent translator \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end accountant \_\_\_\_\_
4. An excellent garbage truck driver \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end computer programmer \_\_\_\_\_
5. An excellent carpenter \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end mechanic \_\_\_\_\_
6. An excellent computer programmer \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end nurse \_\_\_\_\_
7. An excellent mechanic \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end translator \_\_\_\_\_
8. An excellent accountant \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end carpenter \_\_\_\_\_
9. An excellent lawyer \_\_\_\_\_ versus a low end plumber \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you notice about the effects of skills on how much you can expect to earn?**