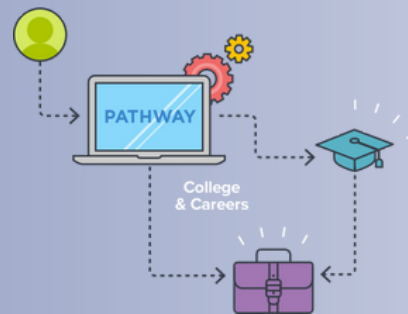


Exploring Career Clusters



Grade Level:

 6, 7

Domain:



College & Career Exploration

TIME:



90 Minutes

This lesson is designed to help students explore career clusters in order to research and prepare for a particular career field or specific career.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn about career clusters and how they can use them to prepare for a career.
2. Connect their top interests and values to a career cluster.
3. Evaluate the career clusters they've researched and choose the most appealing career.
4. Create an advertisement promoting the career they've researched.

MEFA Pathway Activities

- Career Search
- My Journal
- Would You Rather

Materials Needed

- Internet connection
- *Career Cluster Research* handout (attached)

Vocabulary

- Career Cluster
- Career Pathway
- Interests
- Values

Future Ready Skills

- Research
- Career Exploration
- Self-Knowledge

PART 1

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE



Introduce career clusters to students by asking if they have heard of the term. Explain that a career cluster is a way to group careers that share common features. For example, nurses, doctors, and physical therapists are all health-related careers.

In this lesson, students will play MEFA Pathway's **Would You Rather** activity to determine their top career cluster. Have students log in to their MEFA Pathway account, click *Careers Discovery Zone* under the *Discover Careers* tab, and click *PLAY NOW* in the *Would You Rather* box. Once students complete the activity, have students click *My Journal* under the *About Me* tab and make a journal entry identifying their top career cluster and their reaction to it.

PART 2

APPLYING INFORMATION

Have students log in to MEFA Pathway and click on *Career Search* under the *Discover Careers* tab. Students should search for careers using their top career cluster as a filter. Students should save at least three careers of interest to their **My Careers** list by clicking on the green *SAVE* button within the details page of each career.

PART 3

EVALUATING INFORMATION

Students should complete the *Career Cluster Research* handout based on the three careers they added to their **My Careers** list.

PART 4

CRITICAL THINKING/CREATIVE APPLICATION

Students should create an advertisement for the career that aligns with their interests the most. The advertisement should promote the career and include career details, including required education level, skills needed, daily tasks, and projected median wage. Encourage students to be creative with their advertisement, which should look professional and have at least three images.

Career Cluster Research

1. What is the name of the career cluster?
2. What are the three careers you saved to your list in this career cluster?
3. For the first career:
 - a. How does this career match your interests, values, and skills?
 - b. What education, experience, and job training are required for this career?
 - c. What are some of the daily tasks and work activities of this career?
 - d. What are areas of knowledge that may be required for this career?
 - e. What kind of wages could you make at this job?
 - f. What are some related professions?
4. For the second career:
 - a. How does this career match your interests, values, and skills?
 - b. What education, experience, and job training are required for this career?
 - c. What are some of the daily tasks and work activities of this career?
 - d. What are areas of knowledge that may be required for this career?
 - e. What kind of wages could you make at this job?
 - f. What are some related professions?
5. For the third career:
 - a. How does this career match your interests, values, and skills?
 - b. What education, experience, and job training are required for this career?
 - c. What are some of the daily tasks and work activities of this career?
 - d. What are areas of knowledge that may be required for this career?
 - e. What kind of wages could you make at this job?
 - f. What are some related professions?

GRADING RUBRIC FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

CATEGORY	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
	4	3	2	1
Content Accuracy	All content in the advertisement is accurate. There are no factual errors.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that seems inaccurate.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly inaccurate	The content is confusing or contains more than one factual error.
Sequencing of Information	The information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Most information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Some information is logically sequenced.	There is no clear plan for the organization of information.
Effectiveness	The advertisement includes all the material needed to give a good understanding of the topic.	The advertisement lacks one or two key elements.	The advertisement is missing more than two key elements.	The advertisement lacks several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Use of Graphics	All graphics are attractive (size and colors) and support the topic of the advertisement	A few graphics are not attractive, but all support the topic of the advertisement.	All graphics are attractive, but a few do not support the topic of the advertisement	Several graphics are unattractive AND detract from the content of the advertisement.
Font Choice & Formatting	Font formats (size, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formats have been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
Conventions. The student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	The advertisement has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	The advertisement has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	The advertisement has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	The advertisement has more than 2 grammatical and/ or spelling errors.