



**PROJECT LIFE**

Creating lifelong connections for youth.

*A partnership with and funded by VDSS.*

## **Where Do I Want to Work?**

Youth will learn how their skills, personal qualities, and interests help them to decide which career path they would like to pursue.

**Career Preparation**

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## Where Do I Want to Work?

<b><i>Age Range</i></b>	14+
<b><i>Skill Focus</i></b>	Youth will learn how their skills, abilities, and interests align with possible career paths.
<b><i>Group Size</i></b>	Up to 20 youth
<b><i>Time Required</i></b>	60 minutes
<b><i>Materials Needed</i></b>	- <b><i>Employment Assessment Handout</i></b> - <b><i>Employment Card Game Sheets</i></b> (set for each youth)
<b><i>Adapted From</i></b>	Preparing Adolescents for Young Adulthood (PAYA)

### ***Leader's Notes:***

<b>Employment Skills Assessment</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>
<b>Employment Card Game</b>	<b>25 minutes</b>
<b>Career Choices and Requirements</b>	<b>20 minutes</b>
<b>Closing</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>

## Employment Skills Assessment (10 minutes)

Explain to the youth that we will begin by taking an assessment to determine what they know about the types of jobs they may want currently and in the future. Pass out the **Employment Skill Assessment** handout and give youth time to complete the assessment. Once assessments are completed, have a short discussion about the youth's responses and have a few people share what they wrote down.

## Employment Card Game (25 minutes)

After the youth complete the assessment, explain that we will now be looking at what they want in a job. Explain that we will be discussing what they find important in a job. Hand out the **Employment Card Game Sheets** for the card game (each youth should have their own set of cards) and go over the following instructions:

Instruct each youth to cut apart the fourteen cards. Allow them time to read over the cards and tell them to think about each quality and how it applies to them as an individual.

Read the following script to the group:

*These are 14 qualities that most people look for in a job:*

**Service** - To contribute to making the world a better place

**Location** - To live where I want to live

**Loyalty** - To be loyal to the company and my boss and to have their loyalty in return

**Security** - To have a secure and stable position

**Prestige** - To be seen as being successful, as having stature

**Expertise** - To be recognized as an authority in what I do

**Power** - To have influence over others

**Health** - To maintain physical fitness and enjoy normal good health

**Enjoyment** - To like my work, to have fun in it

**Family** - To have ample time with my family

**Wealth** - To have a great deal of money

**Achievement** - To accomplish important things, to do work that is personally challenging, that helps me grow

**Friendship** - To work with people I like and to be liked by them

**Independence** - To have freedom of thought and action

*Which of the 14 qualities are most important to you? Choose your ten most important and write them down. Put the other four qualities to the side.*

*Pretend you have been offered a job. Are these the ten qualities you would like to have in a new job? (Get a verbal response from some of the youth.)*

*When we are searching for a job it is important to keep in mind what is important to us. But every job you have is not going to be perfect. Uh-oh. You're going to have to give up one of your ten qualities. Which one will you sacrifice? Why? (Have youth cross off the quality on their list by drawing a single line through it. Discuss which qualities they are giving up and why.)*

*Now two more qualities have to go. Think about your decision carefully. What reasons did you have for making the choices you did? How hard was this decision? (Have youth cross these off of the list also.)*

*Okay so I have some GOOD NEWS! You can take one of the old qualities back. Which one will you take back? Why? (Have youth circle one of the qualities that was previously crossed off the list.)*

*Unfortunately for most of us we can't always get a job that has every quality we want, especially when we are young and still working on our education and learning new skill. So suppose you could have only one quality? Which would you choose? Why? (Have youth share which one they chose.)*

*Take a few minutes to think about what decisions you just made. Why would you like to have the qualities you finally chose? Are these the things in life and in a job that really matter to you?*

*Keep this list with you and think about it as you are considering what type of career you want to pursue in the future.*

## **Career Choices and Requirements (20 Minutes)**

Now that we've talked about some of the job qualities that may be important to you, let's look at some possible job types and choices and see how they potentially line up with the qualities that are important to you.

Pass out the ***Career Choices and Requirements*** handout. Have the youth circle the skills they enjoy or do well. Instruct them to add any other items that are not listed.

Once youth have circled their skills, they will try to find patterns to see what type of job they would enjoy. For example, if many of the skills they chose include working with their hands, they could refer to the “Outdoor Work” section and see what types of jobs may fit their skill set. Instruct youth to circle the jobs that appeal to them based on the skills they circled.

Have youth share what types of jobs they circled and have some discussion around what they would need to do to obtain that job (what type of schooling is required? What would the hours look like? etc.)

### **Final Thoughts (5 minutes)**

Remind youth that there are many different types of jobs and that each person has a specific set of skills that fit particular jobs. Encourage youth to continue learning about themselves (their skills, interests, etc.) so they can choose the career path that would work best for them. Also encourage youth to seek out advisors and counselors who can help them determine which career to pursue.