

Exploring Career Categories

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

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

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

ACTIVITIES

PART 1

Content Knowledge

Introduce career categories to students. Begin by asking students if they have heard of the term career category or career cluster. Explain that a career category 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 category. Have students log in to their MEFA Pathway account and navigate to the *Would You Rather* activity located in the *Careers Discovery Zone* on their *Dashboard*. Once students complete the activity, have students make an entry in their *My Journal* by clicking on the pen icon in the lower right corner identifying their top career category and their reaction to it.

PART 2

Critical Thinking/Creative Application

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

Grade Level: 7

MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:

- Career Search
- My Journal
- Would You Rather

DOMAIN:

- College & Career Exploration

TIME:

- 90 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
- Career Category Research Handout (included)

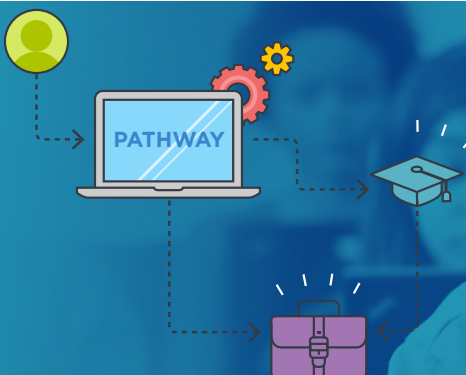
FUTURE READY SKILLS:

- Research
- Career Exploration
- Self Knowledge

VOCABULARY:

- Career Category
- Career Pathway
- Interests
- Values

Email any questions to:
k12support@mefa.org



LESSON PLAN

PART 3

Applying Information

Students should complete the *Career Category Research Handout* based on the three careers they added to their *My Career List*. They can use the *Discover Careers* section in MEFA Pathway to research additional careers associated with that category. Students can click on careers they are potentially interested in to learn more about the career and save any careers of interest to their *My Career List* by clicking the green *SAVE* button.

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 details, including education required, skills needed, daily tasks, and projected median wage or salary. Encourage students to be creative with their presentation, which should look professional and have at least three images.

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Career Category Research Handout

1. What is the name of the career category?

2. What are the three careers you saved to your list in this career category?

3. For the first career:
 - a. How does this career match to your interest, values, and skills?

 - b. What education, experience, and job training is 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 of 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 to your interest, values, and skills?
- b. What education, experience, and job training is 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 of 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 to your interest, values, and skills?
- b. What education, experience, and job training is 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 of this career?
- e. What kind of wages could you make at this job?
- f. What are some related professions?

Exploring Career Categories Grading Rubric

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CATEGORY	EXCELLENT 4	GOOD 3	SATISFACTORY 2	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 1
Content Accuracy	All content on 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.	Content confusing or contains more than one factual error.
Sequencing of Information	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	Advertisement includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topic. The advertisement clearly focuses on one career category.	Advertisement is lacking one or two key elements. The advertisement focuses on one career category.	Advertisement is missing more than two key elements. Mostly focuses on one career category.	Advertisement is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies. Does not focus on one career category.
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. Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	Advertisement has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	Advertisement has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	Advertisement has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	Advertisement has more than 2 grammatical and/or spelling errors.