Defining Careers

Objectives
Students will be able to:

• Understand the current realities of the world of work
• Understand the importance of long-term planning and goal setting
• Gain awareness of career information resources

Materials Needed

• Online or print career information resources that give definitions for “job,” “career” and other terms.
  o ISEEK: www.iseek.org/info/glossary.html
  o Job Seekers Guide: www.jobseekersguide.org/US/difference
  o MCIS: http://mncis.intocareers.org {subscription required}
  o Minnesota Programs of Study: www.mnprogramsofstudy.org
  o MnCareers publication (www.MnCareers.org)
  o MyMnCareers: www.iseek.org/mymncareers/advance-career/job-vs-career.html

• White board/poster paper and markers for group discussion.
• Career cluster and pathway framework “wheel”
  (optional; www.iseek.org/iseek/static/pathways.pdf)

Instructions

1. Writes the words “Career,” “Job,” “Occupation,” and “Industry” on the board. Can also include “Work,” “Career Cluster,” ”Career Pathway” or other related terms.

2. Ask students to describe the differences between each term and to provide an example of each one.

3. Compare students’ responses with the definitions in career information resources.

4. Assign a multimedia project or written assignment for students to depict the difference between a career and a job.
Evaluation of Learning

- Grade students’ definition projects.
- Assess students’ participation in class discussion.
- Monitor students’ awareness of career exploration information.

Enhanced Learning

- Have students create a multimedia project depicting a career cluster or pathway.
- Lead discussion or activity to help students create career plans.
- Use the Minnesota Programs of Study website (www.mnprogramsofstudy.org) to look career pathways.