

Job Explorer: My Dream Job-Lesson 9

Topic: Importance of Education and Careers

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Discuss the relationship between education and careers
- Interpret a cartoon explaining the importance of education in finding a job
- Interpret a chart demonstrating the relationship between careers and the level of education attainment
- Write a letter to the editor expressing an opinion about the importance of education in getting a good job

Materials:

- Worksheets #9A, #9B, #9C and #9D

Focus Question: What is the connection between education and a career?

Teaching Strategies:

Introduction:

- Distribute Worksheet #9A, “Cartoon.” Have students follow the directions for the exercise on the worksheet. Then, have them explain their answers to the following:
 - What is this cartoon about?
 - What is the opinion of the cartoonist about the importance of education in finding a job? Do you agree with the cartoonist’s opinion?
 - What title did you suggest for this cartoon?

Body of the lesson:

Tell the class that today they will be discussing the relationship between education and careers.

- Distribute Worksheet #9B, “Reading.” Have students follow the directions for the exercise on the worksheet. Then, have them explain their answers to the following:
 - What is this reading about?
 - According to this reading what value does a good education provide?
 - How does a good education reduce a person’s economic and social risks?
 - What does this reading tell us about the effect of education on the gap between skills and employers’ needs?
 - What information do we get from this reading about the mix of academic and vocational education necessary for a good job?
- Distribute Worksheet #9C, “Chart.” Have students follow the directions for the exercise on the worksheet. Then, have them explain their answers to the following:
 - How can you explain the title of the Chart, “Median Incomes Vary Greatly By Education Attainment?”
 - What information does this chart reveal about income and levels of educational attainment?”
 - What conclusions can you draw from this chart about levels of income and education attainment?

- Do you think paying people a higher salary because they have attained a higher education level makes good business sense?
- Distribute Worksheet #9D, “**Dream Job Chart**” Have students follow the directions for the exercise on the worksheet as it relates to their dream job essay.
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Summary/Assessment:

- Have the class explain their answers to the following:
 - To what extent is staying in school important for getting a good job?

Worksheet #9A, "Cartoon"

Exercise: Suggest a title for this cartoon and write it on the line below.

Title: _____



http://www.toonpool.com/cartoons/education_142023

Worksheet #9B, “Reading”

Exercise: Read the worksheet on this page and underline three reasons given to support the argument about “the value of a good education.”

The value of a good education

In the wake of the economic crisis of 2007-8, there is a widening employment and earnings gap between well-educated youths and those who left school at an early age. In some areas of the world, the average difference in earnings between those who didn't finish high school and those who have a university degree has risen from 75% in 2008 to 90% in 2011.

The crisis has also produced ample evidence that a good education provides valuable insurance against a lack of work experience: the impact of educational attainment on unemployment is much greater for younger than older people.

Education reduces economic and social risks

The message is clear: it is a person's education that determines whether he or she will be extremely or only moderately exposed to economic and social risks in times of crisis. Those without a minimal level of education, and certainly those without a stable job, find themselves without any shelter from the storm. Meanwhile, the relative returns on higher education increase. Some might argue that this is largely due to changes in the labor market, resulting in highly educated people taking the jobs of the middle-educated individuals, who, in turn, drive low-educated workers into unemployment. The earnings data do not seem to confirm this hypothesis. In times of economic crisis and tough competition in the labor market, employers are less willing to value skills as much as they seem to do at other times.

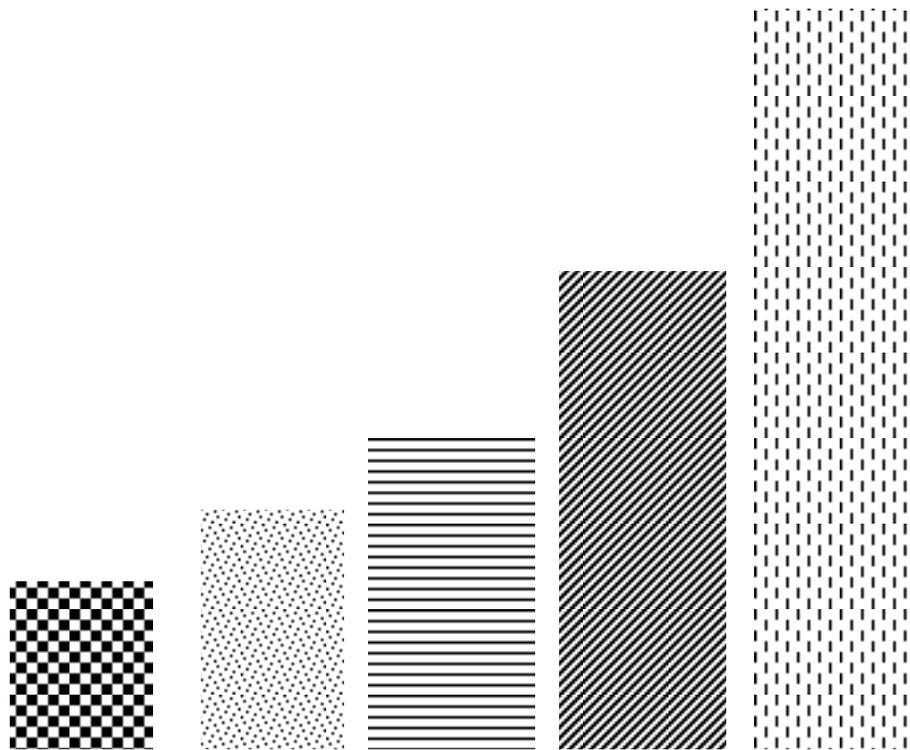
The gap between skills and employers' needs

Education does not automatically translate into relevant skills, better jobs and better lives, as in some countries there are many unemployed college graduates, while at the same time, employers say they cannot find people with the skills they need. This year's data shows the value of vocational qualifications as a pathway to employment. Countries with a higher share of vocational graduates saw youth unemployment rise much less than their peers with only academic qualifications. Compared to purely government-designed curricula taught exclusively in schools, learning in the workplace allows people to develop “hard” skills on modern equipment, and “soft” skills, such as teamwork, communication and negotiation, through real-world experience. Hands-on workplace training also seems to help motivating disengaged youth to stay in or re-engage with education and smoothen the transition to work.

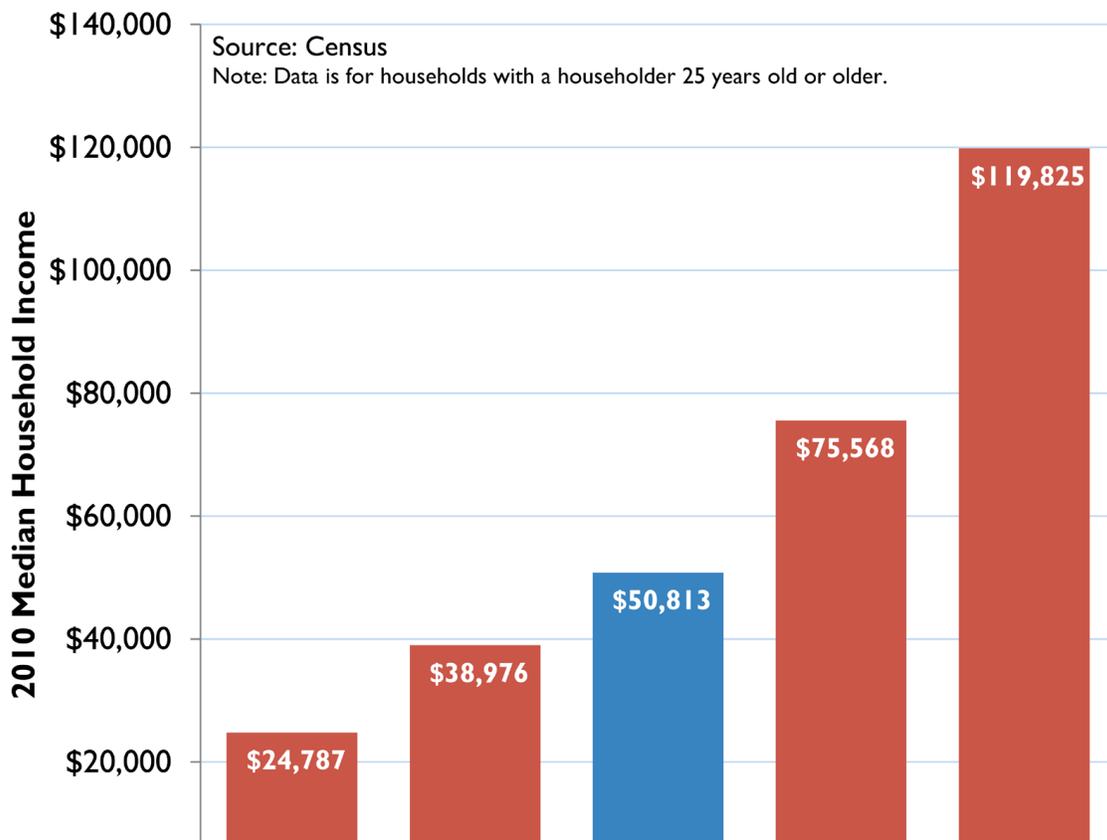
At yet, while vocational education is a great way into employment, the data also show that the long-term benefits of a university education later in life remain unsurpassed. That's why this should not become a question of pushing young people to make a choice between academic and vocational education, but about providing them with the right mix of academic and vocational skills.

Worksheet #9C, “Chart”

Exercise: In the space marked “Information” following the chart, write two important facts that you learned from the chart below.



Median Incomes Vary Greatly by Educational Attainment



<http://taxfoundation.org/blog/chart-day-income-levels-vs-education-level>
Worksheet #9D, "Dream Job Chart"

Dream Job:

1. Fill out this chart based on your dream job.

Skills	Education/Training	Personality	Experience

2. Circle the attributes above that relate to you.