



Lesson 2

Satisfaction

Instructor's Guide

E-Lesson Standards: (1) Analyze the effect of education on satisfaction in life; (2) Identify an economic trend; (3) Compare income based on education.

E-Lesson Related Topics: critical thinking, economics, life satisfaction

Teacher's Corner

This lesson asks students to analyze the effect education has on feelings of satisfaction with life. As an adult, the type of work a person does and the associated benefits and social status, or lack of them, has a large impact on feelings of well being. Adults with higher levels of education and higher incomes consistently report a greater sense of satisfaction with their lives.

Economic changes and advances in technology favor educated workers who have at least an associate's degree. Not only are job opportunities greater for educated workers, but salaries are increasing while opportunities and wages for unskilled labor are dropping. In "Education Is Your Friend," students are asked to spot the trend that shows the widening gap between workers with different levels of education. This trend is reflected in another activity "Education and Wealth."



Lesson 2 Activity Preview

Each activity in today's lesson is briefly described below to give you an overview of what is expected of students.

“Satisfaction” Intro Students are asked to identify how education affects a person's sense of satisfaction in the areas of career, finances, self-image and health. You might also like to include “family” and “friends.”

Currently, much of the satisfaction students feel is tied to their accomplishments and status in school. As adults, much of their satisfaction will come from accomplishments and status in the work world. To expand the activity, develop a discussion about the satisfaction or frustration students feel now. How do their educational accomplishments or lack of them affect their sense of satisfaction?

Education Is Your Friend In this activity, students will spot a trend that shows education can make a big difference in a person's income.

The activity can be expanded by asking students to subtract the income of any lower educational level from any higher educational level. The trend will still appear. Develop a discussion about the effects of the widening gap in pay between more and less educated individuals and the reasons for the trend. Ask students if they think the trend will change. What effect does this trend have on workers' ability to feel satisfied with their lives and jobs?

Education and Payday An income chart showing average weekly incomes by education level is provided. The chart shows federal tax deductions, a deduction for necessities, and discretionary income. Students are given examples of discretionary spending items and asked to calculate how much discretionary income they will need. Then they are instructed to compare the dollar cost of their satisfaction with the education level required to earn those dollars.



Lesson 2 Activity Preview (Continued)

Expand the activity by asking students to research the cost of living in their geographic area. For example, how much would they have to pay to rent an apartment or purchase a house? How much do they estimate they would pay for a week's groceries in their area? Ask them to keep track of how much money they currently spend each week, particularly on fast food, candy, snacks and beverages.

Point out to students that the estimated 45% of a person's salary for necessities differs by income level. Lower income workers often pay much more for essentials and have little to no discretionary money, especially workers with children.

Leading the Good Life Students are surveyed on the benefits of higher education and satisfaction with life. All of the statements in the survey are based on actual studies. Students may be surprised or disagree with some of the statements. Use student answers as points for additional discussion.

Choose Your Way to Learn Two stories describing opportunities for continuing education and career satisfaction beyond a standard college degree are provided. Students are asked to write a short story of their own.

Expand this activity by asking students to share their stories with the class. Add to the list any educational opportunities that are not already mentioned.



Related Web Site

Some states have more non-college degree jobs than others. You can see the different types of jobs at this link.

www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2014/article/education-level-and-jobs.htm

Solutions to Lesson 2 Activities

Use your judgment in accepting students' varying responses to some answers.

“Satisfaction” Intro

Student answers may include the following:

Career	Better job opportunities; more chances for promotion and networking.
Finances	Higher salaries and work benefits; knowledge to handle and invest money wisely; increased economic security
Self-image	Higher sense of self esteem due to a wider knowledge base and increased opportunities in life
Health	Knowledge to make informed choices and decisions in health care; ability to pay for better health care



Solutions to Lesson 2 Activities (Continued)

Education is Your Friend

1. The gap between incomes of workers based on education is continually widening.
2. Lower income workers are likely to continue to fall behind in their standard of living.
 - This may result in feelings of frustration and despondency within families.
 - Discretionary income goes fast and often isn't enough to cover our wants.

Education and Payday

Student answers regarding discretionary items will vary. Respect their opinions and attempt to change the opinions that are based on poor information or lack of understanding of the realities of education and work.

- More education usually means more money.
- More money often makes people happier.
- Education and happiness seem to be related.
- Other answers are acceptable



Solutions to Lesson 2 Activities (Continued)

The Good Life

In general, individuals with higher levels of education are more satisfied with life. By discussing the statements in class, you can help students understand the connection between life satisfaction and work. Ask students to explain their answers.

Choose Your Way to Learn

Students' stories will vary. Look for a combination of creativity and initiative combines with a grasp of realistic expectations.

Solutions to Self-Check

1 c, 2 b, 3 a, 4 d, 5 b, 6 c, 7 d, 8 d

Related Materials

Learning about Careers highlights the work readiness skills, abilities, and attitudes required in 32 careers. Activities lead students through typical work experiences. For additional information, please contact us by e-mail at csp@careersolutionspublishing.com or by phone at 888 299-2784.