

**Module: Understanding the Workplace**

**Topic:** Local Businesses and Their Contribution to the Community

**Competency:**

- ❑ Demonstrate the ability to locate, understand, and use career information.
- ❑ Describe how work relates to the needs and functions of the economy, society, and personal fulfillment.
- ❑ Describe the influences that societal, economic, and technological changes have on employment trends and future training.

**Length:** Two class periods

**Objective:** Students will learn about local businesses and the role they play in the community as well as their contributions to society and the economy.

**Materials:** Telephone books

**Description of Activity:**

1. Discuss with students some of the different types of businesses that operate locally.
2. Divide the class into groups. Provide each group with a telephone book.
3. Assign each group one of the following categories or add additional categories:
  - a. Construction
  - b. Health care
  - c. Food service
  - d. Transportation
  - e. Recreation
  - f. Law
  - g. Manufacturing
  - h. Communication
  - i. Repair work (any area)
  - j. Beauty
  - k. Finance
  - j. Home improvement

Note: Explain the categories so that they know how to look for businesses since the categories are broader areas usually than what is used in the Yellow Pages.

4. Assign each group to find 3-4 businesses in the assigned category and if possible use the Yellow Page Ads to find out what the business does.
5. Have the groups share their descriptions of these businesses with the class. Include in the discussion the contribution the business makes to the local economy and to the people that live there. Identify jobs that might be available with different businesses.
6. Have students discuss what the community would be like without the businesses discussed. For instance, if certain products or services were not available locally, people would drive to another city or order from a catalog or the Internet. How does this affect the economy in your community?

**Additional Activities:**

Invite someone from the Chamber of Commerce or other business to discuss the local economy, businesses, future growth, etc.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be able to describe three-five businesses in the community and how they contribute to the economy and society.