

Module: Self-Awareness

Topic: Values . . . What's Important to You?

Competency: Students will identify five values that they consider important in making a career choices

Length: One class period

Objective: Students will become aware of how their values are an important part of determining what occupations would satisfy them and meet their needs.

Materials: *Value Assessment* Handout

Description of Activity:

1. Discuss the concept of values with students. Identifying your personal values is an important part of developing career plans. In this context, the word "value" refers to how you feel about the work itself and the contribution it makes to society. Most people who pursue work that matches their values feel satisfied and successful in their careers. As you mature and have more life experiences, your values may change or even become more important in certain areas.
2. Work values can be divided into two functional categories. **Intrinsic** values are those that relate to a specific interest in the activities of the work itself, or to the benefits that the work contributes to society. Ask the class why they think people go into teaching? Health care occupations? What are some areas of research? What about environmental concerns? What about government officials such as the President, Governor, or other politicians?
3. **Extrinsic** values relate to the favorable conditions that accompany an occupational choice, such as physical setting, earning potential, and other external features. For example, most people don't look at a list of the highest paying jobs and decide that they want to choose one of them. Other things will come into play such as: do you have to travel, work on weekends, be willing to move, etc. How much education will you need? Salary alone will not make a person happy and satisfied with their work. Most people, in order to feel truly satisfied with their work, must find some personal intrinsic value in it.
4. Give students the *Values Assessment* handout. After they complete the assessment, have them prioritize at least five values that are most important to them.

5. List on the chalkboard the following occupations: Salesperson, doctor, carpenter, realtor, President (and others). What values do you feel are important for these occupations? Use the values listed on the assessment for discussion.

Evaluation:

Students will take the values assessment and identify their five most important values.

VALUE ASSESSMENT

Identifying your personal values is an important part of a successful career plan. In this context, the word "value" refers to how you feel about the work itself and the contribution it makes to society. Most people who pursue work that is compliments their values feel satisfied and successful in their careers. As you mature and have more life experiences, your values may become more important in certain areas.

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The following is a list of personal values that many people have identified as being important to them in their careers. To begin exploring your own personal work values, rate each value listed with the following scale and add other values you consider essential to your list.

- 1 – Things I value VERY MUCH
- 2 – Things I VALUE
- 3 – Things I DON'T VALUE very much

Rating	Values	
	Help Society	Do something which contributes to improving the world we live in
	Help Others	Be directly included in helping other people, either individually or in small groups
	Public Contact	Have a lot of day-to-day contact with the public
	Work with Others	Work as a team member toward common goals
	Work Alone	Do projects by myself, with limited contact with others
	Competition	Engage in activities which pit my abilities against others
	Make Decisions	Have the power to decide courses of action and
	Work Under Pressure	Work in situations where time pressure is prevalent
	Influence People	Be in a position to influence the attitudes or opinions of other people
	Knowledge	Engage in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding
	Work Mastery	Become an expert in whatever work I do
	Artistic Creativity	Engage in creative artistic expression
	General Creativity	Have the opportunity to create new programs, materials, or organizational structures
	Aesthetics	Participate in studying or appreciating the beauty of things, ideas, etc.
	Supervision	Have a job in which I am directly responsible for the work of others
	Change and Variety	Have work activities which frequently change
	Precision Work	Work in situations where attention to detail and accuracy are very important
	Stability	Have a work routine and job duties that are largely predictable

Rating	Values	
	Security	Be assured of keeping my job and receiving satisfactory compensation
	Recognition	Be publicly recognized for the high quality of my work
	Fast Pace	Work in circumstances where work must be done rapidly
	Excitement	Experience a high degree of (or frequent) excitement in the course of my work
	Adventure	Have work duties which require frequent risk-taking
	Financial Gains	Have a high likelihood of achieving very great monetary rewards for my work
	Physical Challenge	Do activities that use my physical capabilities
	Independence	Be able to determine the nature of my work without significant direction from others
	Moral Fulfillment	Feel that my work contributes to a set of moral standards which I feel are very important
	Community	Live where I can participate in community affairs
	Time Freedom	Be able to work according to my own schedule

My 5 Most Important Values	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	