

Unit 1: Introduction to Career Exploration

- **Duration:** 2 Weeks
- **Standards:**
 - Illinois: SS.IS.1.9-12 (Create essential questions to help guide inquiry about a topic)
 - ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.4 (Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text)
- **Objectives:**
 - Understand the purpose and importance of career exploration.
 - Identify personal interests, strengths, and values.
 - Learn how these personal traits relate to potential careers.
- **Assessments:**
 - Self-assessment inventory.
 - Reflection paper on personal strengths and career interests.

Unit 2: Researching Career Options

- **Duration:** 3 Weeks
- **Standards:**
 - Illinois: SS.IS.4.9-12 (Gather and evaluate sources)
 - ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.7 (Conduct short research projects)
- **Objectives:**
 - Research various career fields and occupations.
 - Understand job market trends and employment outlooks.
 - Explore the skills, education, and training required for different careers.
- **Assessments:**
 - Career research project.
 - Presentation on a chosen career.

Unit 3: Developing Job Skills

- **Duration:** 4 Weeks
- **Standards:**
 - Illinois: ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1 (Initiate and participate effectively in discussions)
 - SS.EC.FL.3.9-12 (Analyze credit and debt; identify skill acquisition as a career asset)
- **Objectives:**
 - Develop essential job skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.
 - Learn how to create a resume and cover letter.
 - Practice job interview techniques.
- **Assessments:**
 - Resume and cover letter creation.

- Mock interviews with peer and instructor feedback.

Unit 4: Career Planning

- **Duration:** 3 Weeks
- **Standards:**
 - Illinois: SS.IS.6.9-12 (Construct and evaluate arguments)
 - ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2 (Write informative/explanatory texts)
- **Objectives:**
 - Develop a personal career plan.
 - Set short-term and long-term career goals.
 - Create a timeline for achieving educational and career milestones.
- **Assessments:**
 - Career plan document.
 - Goal-setting worksheet.

Unit 5: Exploring Post-Secondary Options

- **Duration:** 3 Weeks
- **Standards:**
 - Illinois: SS.G.2.9-12 (Evaluate how geography influences human activities)
 - ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.7 (Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums)
- **Objectives:**
 - Explore different post-secondary options, including college, vocational training, apprenticeships, and military service.
 - Understand the financial aspects of post-secondary education, including scholarships, grants, and student loans.
 - Evaluate the pros and cons of different educational paths.
- **Assessments:**
 - Post-secondary options comparison chart.
 - Research paper on a chosen post-secondary path.

Unit 6: Workplace Readiness

- **Duration:** 3 Weeks
- **Standards:**
 - Illinois: SS.IS.6.9-12 (Apply civic virtues and democratic principles when working with others)
 - ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.4 (Present information clearly, concisely, and logically)
- **Objectives:**
 - Understand workplace expectations and professional behavior.
 - Learn about workplace ethics, time management, and conflict resolution.
 - Prepare for the transition from school to work.

- **Assessments:**
 - Workplace readiness skills checklist.
 - Group project on workplace scenarios and ethical dilemmas.
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Ongoing Assessments:

- **Weekly Reflections:** Students write about their career exploration journey and evolving interests.
- **Participation:** Continuous assessment of student engagement in discussions, activities, and projects.