

JA Trades

My Work Priorities Volunteer Guide

Discussion Points:

Your generation is projected to work for a far greater number of companies and in a high number of different jobs over the course of your work lives than the generations before you. Discuss.

With that kind of predicted job turnover, why is it essential for you to evaluate what's most important to you in your work environment? Discuss.

Once you have established those priorities, use them as an anchor for planning what kind of job you want and what education and training are needed.

Why is it important to think about the quality of life you want to have? Accept all answers. (It is important so that you can plan with those priorities in mind.) The JA Volunteer may share their work priorities with the students.

You will now make choices about what you want your work future to look like. You will then prioritize those choices so you can focus on your career paths.

Activity Setup Part 1:

1. Distribute the Personal Priority Cards (in baggies) to each student along with a dry erase marker and eraser or wipe.
2. Ask the students to place each card from the baggie in front of them on the table.
3. Ask the students to read the "I would rather" pairs on each card and circle the choice that best describes their work priority in each pair.
4. Repeat the process with the other cards.
5. Time permitting, ask volunteers to share their choices and why.

Activity Setup Part 2:

1. Distribute the Priority Triangle to each student.
2. Ask the students to turn the triangle to Side One and sort each card into one of the two columns on the triangle based on whether the item circled on each card is a high priority to them in their future work life or a lower priority.
3. Next, ask the students to move the two piles of cards off the triangle, carefully keeping the cards separated into two piles.
4. Ask the students to turn the triangle to Side Two. Have them imagine they are at a job fair, learning about various companies and trying to decide where to apply. Ask them to choose their top 10 priorities from the high-priority pile and move those cards into the spaces numbered 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest priority.
5. Time permitting, ask volunteers to share their choices and why.

Discussion Point:

Explain that it is important to keep these priorities in mind as you make choices that will affect your future. Discuss.