**Assignment Focus**

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| Connections | Planning for Success | Initiative & Self-Direction | Communication |

Networking and building the right connections early on in life can help people succeed in any career they desire. Networking can be done in any setting, whether you are attending a party or a company business conference. Just because you want to get into a career that involves technology, doesn’t mean you need to have Bill Gates as a connection to succeed, although that would be helpful. Connections don’t have to be insanely famous people; anyone can be a connection. Friends, family, teachers, and classmates can all be connections that you can make to help you plan for the future and prepare yourself for success.

In this activity, you will gain knowledge about what connections are and connect them with people in their community that could have a positive effect on their futures. Start by discussing with at least two students in the classroom to share your connections and learn about connections that other people have that could benefit you. Record your information below and answer all the reflection questions.

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| --- | --- |
| Student #1 | |
| Name  *Ex: Taylor James* |  |
| Connection  *Ex: Grandfather – Daniel Jones* |  |
| Career Field  *Ex: Food Service Manager – Owner of a restaurant* |  |
| Form of Contact  *Ex: Email* |  |
| Additional Information |  |

1. Is this a career you are interested in? Explain your answer.
2. Would you utilize and contact this connection in the future? Explain your answer.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student #2 | |
| Name  *Ex: Taylor James* |  |
| Connection  *Ex: Grandfather – Daniel Jones* |  |
| Career Field  *Ex: Food Service Manager – Owner of a restaurant* |  |
| Form of Contact  *Ex: Email* |  |
| Additional Information |  |

1. Is this a career you are interested in? Explain your answer.
2. Would you utilize and contact this connection in the future? Explain your answer.

**Follow-Up Assignment**

After completing the activity, you should understand what connections are and who can be a connection in your life. Now that you have found some close-by connections, it is time to put the contacts to use.

Finish this assignment by choosing one of the connections above to establish a real connection with. You will draft a message to your selected connection in the form of an email, text message, etc. to introduce yourself and create a genuine connection to that person. Although a response back isn’t required, do be sure to provide a screenshot of your message. Following up with these connections gives you more experience with professional communication and helps prepare you for the future.