



– FIND YOUR FUTURE –

LESSON 5: SKILLS, SKILLS, SKILLS

Students will distinguish between academic and power skills and learn how each type of skill plays a role in career success.

Grade Levels: 3–8

Note: Lessons are designed to support multiple grade levels. Modification suggestions and extensions are for alternative pacing and to engage students at various levels. Adjust to meet the needs of your students.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.2

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.4

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.9

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7

CASEL

Self-Awareness, Social Awareness

21st-Century Skills Focus

Critical Thinking, Information Literacy

Essential Questions

1. What is an academic skill? What is a power skill?
2. How do academic skills and power skill differ?
3. What skills are important for a given career?

Materials

Class set of “[Career Comparison](#)” worksheet; one or more copies of “[Power Skills](#)” one-pager; class set of “[Researching a Career](#)” (you may provide each student with more than one); job description samples from a job-posting site (optional)

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduction

- Create a Venn diagram on paper or on the board. Write the word *teacher* in one circle and write another the name of another common job, such as *veterinarian*, in the other. Work together as a class to fill in the diagram. You can include responsibilities and skills associated with each job.
 - Modification: If you had class visitors talk about their career for the previous lesson, you can use those jobs in the Venn diagram.
- Have a discussion about the overlap between the two jobs.

Whole Group/Small Group

- Tell students that they'll be working with a partner on a similar activity. Have each student in the class choose an article to read. Have them take notes about skills needed for the job they're reading about.
- Randomly partner students and have them fill out the “[Career Comparison](#)” worksheet together, based on the articles they read. Call on groups to talk about the two careers they analyzed and one thing these careers have in common.
- Introduce the class to the term *power skills*. Have them look at the “[Power Skills](#)” one-pager to learn more about what these are. Check for understanding by asking students to summarize what power skills are and to give an example.
- Return to the Venn diagram from the beginning of the lesson, and have students add any power skills to the chart that they think fit for each job.

Independent

- Provide students with the “[Researching a Career](#)” worksheet, and have them do a deep dive on a career that interests them. They can start on [Your !\[\]\(c6a8736a601a632e2c96605cf66055ed_img.jpg\) Job](#), and use the sources from the previous lesson, as needed. (Hint: the trading cards found on the Skills Explorer page are a great resource.)

Closing

- Name each of the following power skills: time management, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution. As you name each, have students raise a hand if they noted one of these as an important skill in the career they researched.
- Point out that, despite the very different careers that students might have researched, some power skills are important in many of them.
- Have students return to their “Looking into the Future” worksheet and add any power skills that they think they excel in to the “strengths” section.

Optional Extension

- Pull up a sample job description from Indeed.com, LinkedIn, etc. Read through it with the class, and have students point out academic skills and power skills necessary to succeed in the job. You can repeat this for several jobs, if time permits.
- Challenge students to write a full job description for the career they researched. Make sure it includes

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both academic and power skills. Have students share with a classmate. Or, as students are working, print out actual job descriptions for the same or similar jobs. Have students compare what they wrote to a real job description.



HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Have students ask an adult to write a detailed description of their job, as if they were making a job listing. Did they list any power skills? Have students introduce the idea of power skills. They can refer to the one-pager for help. Have them ask an adult how they use any of these power skills on a daily basis.