
Career Exploration

Talking about careers can be a very rewarding experience for you and your mentee. Using the career exploration tools in these modules is a good way for mentors to get young people excited about the future and help them recognize education as a pathway to their personal success. Students will like these activities because they are fun to do and allow them the freedom to make their own decisions.

Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions a young person will have to make. Unfortunately, young people are urged to decide what they want to do for the rest of their lives before they have finished high school, even though they may not have the information, maturity, or experience necessary to make a good decision.

The goal of these activities is to provide students with as much information about careers and career requirements as they need to choose and plan for a career; however, we must remember that young people often change their minds. Students should try to plan for a career as early as possible in high school, but also continue to explore new career options as they mature. It is therefore very important that students return to the module activities several times during their high school years because their interests will almost certainly change as they get older.

What can you do to help your mentee choose a career? Mentees can explore careers online using these tools, but mentors can add a key ingredient: real world experience. What practical information can you provide your mentee about working in the community? Does your mentee know what employers expect from employees? There are many, many topics you can discuss to prepare your mentee for a career: the importance of a good work ethic, being punctual, having a positive attitude, etc. You understand what it takes to be successful in the world of work—share this knowledge with your student!