

Work and Values

The **BIG** Idea

- How will my personal values affect my choice of careers?

**AGENDA**

Approx. 45 minutes

- I. Warm Up: My Values (10 minutes)
- II. Career Research #3 (30 minutes)
- III. Wrap Up: Same Career, Different Values (5 minutes)

**MATERIALS**

- PORTFOLIO PAGES:**
  - Portfolio pages 11-12, Career Report, (begun in lesson 2)
  - Portfolio page 14, Comparing Careers: Values
- STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGES:**
  - Student Handbook page 24, My Values
- Highlighters
- Overhead projector or chart paper

**OBJECTIVES**

During this lesson, the student(s) will:

- Identify personal values.
- Understand how his/her values influence choice of careers and career satisfaction.
- Summarize career information in a career report.

## OVERVIEW .....

In this lesson, students consider how their values affect their career choices. To begin, students identify their own most important personal values (from a list of five). Then students work independently to complete a career report for their third career. Finally, they'll examine how the values of their career selections fit their personal values.

## PREPARATION .....

- Make arrangements for the class to use the computer lab, and make sure the RUPrepareND.com website is accessible from students' computers in advance of this lesson.
- The following handouts need to be made into overhead transparencies or copied onto chart paper:
  - **Student Handbook page 24, My Values**
  - **Portfolio page 14, Comparing Careers: Values**
- List the day's **BIG IDEA** and activities on the board.
- Write the day's vocabulary and definitions on the board.
- Write the web address [RUPrepareND.com](http://RUPrepareND.com) on the board.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....

Today students will be using RUPrepareND.com to research their third selected career. Last week, they completed a career report for their second career, and read about the major tasks and activities someone in this career does. Through this information, students got an overview of the tasks and responsibilities of this career. Today, students will be learning about values associated with each of their three careers.

## VOCABULARY .....

**Values:** principles or beliefs that guide and regulate actions and behavior.

## IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS .....

### **DO NOW:**

If you prefer, you may choose to use **Student Handbook page 24, My Values** as a DO NOW. Give the students three minutes to complete this page. Once the students have completed the page, begin with the discussion as written in the **Warm Up**.

See **Careers Lesson 3** for tips on readability issues for RUReadyND.com.

## ACTIVITY STEPS

### I. WARM UP: My Values (5 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Welcome, everybody! In this unit, you've been exploring careers. So far, we've focused on how much education is required for different careers, what's involved in different jobs, and what the earnings are like. This week, we're going to look at careers from a different angle – how similar the values associated with a particular career are to your own.
2. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** To start off, how would you describe values? [Take a few answers from the class. Explain that values are the beliefs or principles that guide how you live and act. Values are the code we live by – or at least try to live by.]

Already, your values affect decisions you make every day, from what you do after school to the people you hang out with.

3. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Now, I'd like you to reflect on your own values – which beliefs or ideals are most important to you. To begin, turn to your **Student Handbook page 24, My Values**. Please read through the values and definitions. Remember, this is not a comprehensive list of all values that might be important to you. This is a short list of a few values that you might want to think about when you are considering whether or not a job is a good match for you. Then place a check mark beside each value that you feel is very important to you – a value that really affects the decisions you make in your life.

When you're done, please circle the two values that are MOST important to you and explain at the bottom of the page why you chose those two values.

4. [Give students about five minutes to complete this activity.]

### II. Career Profile: Is This For You? (10 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Next, we're going to consider to how values affect career choices. We're going to look up a career on RUPrepareND.com and see what values are associated with that career.
2. [Sign into RUPrepareND.com then enter the career that you are searching for into the Search box and then click **Go**. You may wish to choose one of the sample careers that are listed in the sample careers and values chart. Students will be reading the values for the selected career on the **Is This For You?** tab.]

Sample Careers and Values Chart:

Career	Values
Electrician	Achievement, Relationships
Administrative Assistant	Relationships, Support
Biologist	Achievement, Independence
Musician	Achievement, Independence
Animal Breeder	Independence
Air Traffic Controller	Independence, Recognition

- [Have students turn to **Student Handbook page 24, My Values** and review the meanings of the values listed on the page.]

### III. Career Research #3 (25 minutes)

- [Have students turn to **Portfolio pages 11-13, Career Report (Third Career)**. Explain that they should begin their independent work by completing this form for their third career. Let them know that they'll return to the topic of values once they've completed research for this third career.

Give the students eight to 10 minutes to complete their third career report. Once all the students have finished, go over the directions for **Portfolio page 14, Comparing Careers: Values** as written below.]

- SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Earlier in class you identified your three most important values. Now, you're going to take a look at **Portfolio page 14, Comparing Careers: Values** to decide if and how each of your top career choices matches your values. You may use your completed **Student Handbook page 24, My Values**, to help you.
- [Direct students' attention to **Portfolio pages 11-12, Comparing Careers: Values**. Read the first question aloud, and remind students that the **Is This For You?** page will provide the answer to this question. For example, if you click on the **Is This For You?** page in the career profile for veterinarian you will find that a veterinarian's top values are achievement and independence. Now read the second question aloud. Model how to respond by giving an example: *A veterinarian's work values are achievement and independence. Those are two of my top values, also. This would be a good match for me.* Tell students that if a career meets none of their values, then they should write "none" on the chart.]

4. [Instruct students to read over their three **Career Reports** before completing this chart. They should pay close attention to the daily tasks described in the **What They Do** tab. **Student Handbook page 23, A Day in the Life: Reflection on the Life of a \_\_\_\_\_** is another useful resource for students to look over. These resources will help them to see if a career matches their values.]
5. [Give students about 15 minutes to complete this work, while you circulate to answer questions, trouble-shoot, and keep them focused and on task.]

#### IV. WRAP UP: Same Career, Different Values (5 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Before we wrap up for the day, let's think about what we discovered about our career choices and ourselves. Who would like to share one career and the values that they associate with it? [Let volunteers share some examples.]
2. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Now, take one last look at your **Career Reports**. Did your careers reflect the same personal values you chose at the beginning of the lesson? Chances are, you will find more satisfaction in careers that reflect the values that you feel are most important.
3. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Of course, the same career might appeal to different values in different people. For example, one person might be drawn to the career of a doctor because they want to help people. Someone else might really want to be a doctor because they feel it offers an adventure – with new things to discover every day. And another person might want to be a doctor for the money and recognition.
4. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** What inspires another person might not be what inspires you – and you're the person you should ultimately listen to. After all, choosing a career is a very personal decision. Parents and teachers will advise you. People already in a career will encourage you. But in the end, the choice is yours. What do you love? How do you want to use your talents? What impact do you want to have on the world?
5. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** You all did a great job today. Next week, you'll use your career research to write a short "advertisement" for that career to encourage other students to consider it. At the end of the class, we'll post these career "ads" around the room and you'll have a chance to walk around and learn about different careers.

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## My Values

Read the list of values and descriptions below, and check all that are important to you. Then circle the two that are most important.

- **ACHIEVEMENT:** I like to see the results of my work.
- **INDEPENDENCE:** I like to set my own schedule and do things my own way.
- **RELATIONSHIPS:** I like being friends with my classmates and co-workers. Helping other people is important, too.
- **RECOGNITION:** I like being known for my accomplishments – grades and awards are important to me.
- **SUPPORT:** I like to be treated fairly. I want to know that teachers and supervisors will stand by me when things get tough.
- **WORKING CONDITIONS:** I like job security, good pay and good working conditions.

### Reflection:

1. My **most important** value is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

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2. My **second important** value is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

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## Comparing Careers: Values

List the careers you're considering in the boxes at the top of the chart. For each career, respond to the questions in the column to the left. You should also list your favorite careers from your results on Portfolio Page 4.

Question:	Career 1:	Career 2:	Career 3:
Look at the <b>Is This For You</b> page in RU-ReadyND.com. What work values are listed as being the most important to someone who has this career?			
Look back at <b>Student Handbook page 24, My Values.</b> Are these values a good fit for your own personal values? Explain.			