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Behaving Responsibly:

Connecting Life and Careers

CTAE-FS-9 Ethics and Legal Responsibilities: Learners commit to work ethics, behavior, and legal responsibilities in the workplace.

Understanding and Goals

Unit Understandings, Themes, and Concepts:

Enduring Understandings:

- Students will learn that mature behavior is required in a professional setting.
- Students will also learn that decisions made today can have lasting consequences.

Primary Learning Goals:

Essential Questions:

- What areas of their life will a person's career affect?
- What are some characteristics of being an adult?
- What characteristics may endanger a person's career?
- How should a person respond to negative peer pressure?
- What is lost, in addition to money, by behaving irresponsibly?

Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify mature and immature characteristics.
- Students will be able to weigh the benefits and consequences of each decision they make.

Students with disabilities:

For students with disabilities, each instructor should refer to the student's IEP to be sure that the accommodations specified in the IEP are being provided within the classroom setting. Instructors should also familiarize themselves with the provisions of Behavior Intervention Plans that may be part of a student's IEP. Frequent consultation with a student's special education instructor will be beneficial in providing appropriate differentiation within any given instructional activity or requirement.

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Lesson 1 Grow Up!

Weekly Words of Wisdom: "If I had known that I would lose my job and have to start over, I never would have allowed myself to get in trouble."

Mark Fairchild, 31, Landscape Designer, Asheville, NC



Tom looks over at Alan's empty desk and remarks, "I can't believe he's late again."

"He was probably out partying last night as usual. I don't know how he does it," Margie shakes her head.

Craig adds, "I don't know *why* he does it. Partying gets old after a while."

"Well, if he's not careful, he's going to lose his job," Tom sighs.

Grinning, Craig asks, "Are you kidding? The way Alan talks, you'd believe he is headed for a big promotion. He admires himself a little too much!"

"Come on! You're kidding," Margie says. "He can't really believe he'll get a promotion. He still can't run the copier or the FAX machine by himself. He needs to grow up,"

Alan is over 18 and has a full-time job, but his co-workers don't view him as an adult. List three adult characteristics that Alan can develop to change his co-workers' opinions.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What Makes an Adult?

In the U.S., you automatically have the rights and responsibilities of an adult on your 18th birthday. But what does it mean to be an adult? What does it feel like? How is being an adult different from how you are now?

Express your views on adulthood by filling in the blanks below.

An adult is someone who _____

I'm looking forward to being an adult because _____

I'm not looking forward to being an adult because _____

I'll know I'm an adult when _____

What Makes an Adult? (Continued)

The kind of work I do as an adult will affect the following areas of my life:

1. Economic independence

2. Self-image

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Three obstacles that could damage or ruin my chance of a successful career as an adult are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Three of my adult role models and the reasons they are role models are listed below:

1. Adult's name or relationship: _____

because _____

What Makes an Adult? (Continued)

2. Adult's name or relationship: _____

because _____

3. Adult's name or relationship: _____

because _____

What adult qualities do you already exhibit that will help you be successful in a career and in your day-to-day activities? What qualities do you exhibit that others would consider childlike, ones that would endanger your career?

My adult qualities that will help me in a career include _____

My childlike qualities that will endanger my career if I don't change include _____

One Mistake, One Doomed Career

Will most mistakes be overlooked when you're an adult? Can all obstacles be overcome?

Teens and children usually get many chances to correct their mistakes. Even the courts are lenient on first-time, second-time, and, occasionally, third-time youth offenders. That changes when you become an adult. One serious mistake or error in judgment can make a dramatic change in your adult life.

Read the following example about Mark, whose life was sidetracked by bad judgment. At the end, write your answer to each question.

Mark, who is now 23, pictures himself climbing back into his big rig one day. His high school diploma and excellent driving skills once made him a popular driver. Like all truckers, he loves traveling the country with no one looking over his shoulder. He enjoys the company of other truckers, and he makes a good living. Last year, he bought a house and a pickup truck. He also met a new girlfriend he's crazy about.

Mark has always known that to earn and keep a Commercial Drivers License (CDL), he must use good judgment and self discipline. Drivers with CDL's are subject to random drug and alcohol testing at all times.

One Mistake, One Doomed Career (Continued)

One weekend, Mark's new girlfriend introduced him to marijuana. She persuaded him to join her and her friends when they smoked pot. The very next day he was chosen for a random drug test and tested positive for marijuana. His life changed overnight.

Here are the consequences of Mark's actions:

- He had to stop driving immediately and could not return to duty until he completed a Department of Transportation (DOT) substance abuse evaluation and treatment program.
- Although Mark's employer thought highly of him, there was no non-safety sensitive work available for him with the company. He lost his truck driving job, and he had to find other work to provide income until he completed the required program.
- The DOT program cost Mark over \$1000 and took four months to complete. Now that he is finished he has to be randomly drug tested 12 more times during the next year and pay for the tests himself.
- Although Mark was legally allowed to return to duty after completing the program, no trucking or transportation company is likely to hire him after he has failed a drug test.
- A year later, Mark is still trying to get back into trucking. He works as a day laborer, but the work is seasonal and doesn't pay as well as truck driving.

One Mistake, One Doomed Career (Continued)

- Mark was not able to keep up the payments on his home or new truck and lost both. He still has his girlfriend.
- Mark's trucking friends are shocked. They all know that a failed drug test means that his trucking days are probably over for good.

1. Commercial drivers know that one failed drug test can destroy their careers. What do you think of this consequence of Mark's single mistake? _____

2. Mark's mistake cost him more than just a good income. List five things that Mark lost in addition to money. One example is provided for you.

a. Satisfaction in his job

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

One Mistake, One Doomed Career (Continued)

3. Peer pressure doesn't end when you become an adult. Although Mark knew better, he still wanted to feel like part of the group. What is the best way to deal with negative peer pressure?

4. Mark's career skills are related to truck driving. Going back to school at this point in life is possible, but he lives a long way from the nearest community college. He also has to continue to earn an income to support himself. What is the best way Mark can acquire new skills for a different career?

5. What three steps do you recommend to Mark to help improve his current situation?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____