

Unit 1 – Overview: Making It My Choice!

Overview

Making it My Choice! is designed to assist middle school-aged students in taking ownership of their future choices, especially those related to career exploration. In this unit, students will learn more about themselves and how their decisions and career-planning efforts will impact their future lives. Through the exploration of college and career readiness skills, students will begin the process of growing into a career-ready student.

Outcomes

The student synthesizes a mission statement and orally responds to questions regarding ownership of his or her future plans. Mission statements and oral responses should demonstrate active reflection, synthesis and application of Key Concepts related to the following Essential Questions:

- Essential Question 1: How do I take ownership of my future?
 - Key Concept 1: Individuals at my age begin assuming increasing levels of independence.
 - Key Concept 2: It is my right to independently explore Career Pathways that best fit my personal interests, aptitudes and aspirations.
 - Key Concept 3: There are many influences, both internal and external, that may impact my perceptions and how I make decisions.
- Essential Question 2: How do decisions I make today directly influence my future?
 - Key Concept 1: Personal and lifestyle choices made now and during high school lead to both opportunities and consequences regarding my future career options.
 - Key Concept 2: Effective career planning at my age involves establishing personal guidelines for making reasonable choices and conducting exploration of a variety of careers.
 - Key Concept 3: It is my responsibility to make academic and extracurricular activity choices a relevant aspect of my career-planning efforts.
 - Key Concept 4: I can consistently utilize a set of decision-making steps to make sound decisions about my future.
- Essential Question 3: How do I start career planning now?
 - Key Concept 1: Personal and lifestyle choices made now and during high school lead to both opportunities and consequences regarding my future career options.
 - Key Concept 2: Effective career planning at my age involves establishing personal guidelines for making reasonable choices and conducting exploration of a variety of careers.
 - Key Concept 3: Effective career planning does not mean I need to select a specific occupation nor should it narrow my options at this stage of my life.
 - Key Concept 4: It is my responsibility to make academic and extracurricular activity choices a relevant aspect of my career-planning efforts.

- Essential Question 4: Why must I grow and develop college and career readiness skills?
 - Key Concept 1: College and career readiness skills are required for success in any career.
 - Key Concept 2: It is important that I begin building these skills as the foundation for a future career and growing into a career-ready student.

Session	Key Events
1 Unit Introduction: <i>Making It My Choice!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience the idea of living by choice versus by chance. • Introduce the Essential Questions for Unit 1. • Preview the Unit 1 Milestone Project.
2 Guided Instruction: <i>Topic 1-1: Own My Future!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided inquiry into Essential Question 1: How do I take ownership of my future? • Introduce Learning Expedition Guide 1-1.
3 Self-Directed Learning: <i>Topic 1-1: Own My Future!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-directed inquiry into Essential Question 1: How do I take ownership of my future? • Complete Learning Expedition Guide 1-1. • Make progress toward the Unit 1 Milestone Project.
4 Guided Instruction: <i>Topic 1-2: Make It Count!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided inquiry into Essential Question 2: How do decisions I make today directly influence my future? • Introduce Learning Expedition Guide 1-2.
5 Self-Directed Learning: <i>Topic 1-2: Make It Count!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-directed inquiry into Essential Question 2: How do decisions I make today directly influence my future? • Complete Learning Expedition Guide 1-2. • Make progress toward the Unit 1 Milestone Project.
6 Guided Instruction: <i>Topic 1-3: Where Do I Start?</i> <i>Career Planning 101</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided inquiry into Essential Question 3: How do I start career planning now?
7 Guided Instruction: <i>Topic 1-3: Where Do I Start?</i> <i>College and Career</i> <i>Readiness Skills</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided inquiry into Essential Question 4: Why must I grow and develop college and career readiness skills? • Introduce Learning Expedition Guide 1-3.

8 & 9 Self-Directed Learning:
Topic 1-3: How Do I Start?

- Self-directed inquiry into Essential Questions 3 & 4.
- Complete **Learning Expedition 1-3**.
- Make progress toward the Unit 1 Milestone Project.
- Distribute the letter to parents regarding supporting student learning.

10 & 11 Milestone Project:
Construction & Feedback

- Refine and complete the Unit 1 Milestone Project.
- Self-evaluate the Unit 1 Milestone Project using the **Milestone Project Rubric: Unit 1**.
- Meet with the teacher to receive feedback on the Unit 1 Milestone Project.

12 Milestone Project:
Showcase & Final Assessment

- Showcase completed Unit 1 Milestone Projects.
- Complete final evaluation of Unit 1 Milestone Projects.

13 Optional: End-of-Unit Exam

- Complete the End-of-Unit Exam: Unit 1 and course evaluation.