Learning Activity
~ Problem-based Learning (PBL) Design Tool ~

Activity Title: Are You a Valuable Resource?

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Focus/Goals/Objectives: Have the students develop an understanding of the skills and talents needed to be a valuable resource in the world of industry and to breakdown some of the stereotypes of the workplace.

What type of course(s) would this activity be best suited for: This activity can be used in a freshman economics unit or a career explorations class.

What concepts could be incorporated from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math? An appreciation for the qualities which are desirable for workers in business and industry.

Science	Technology	Engineering	Math
Fundamental knowledge of life and physical sciences.	Fundamental knowledge of computer usage including word processing, spreadsheet manipulations, email, and internet operations.	An appreciation for improvements through design upgrades.	Basic math skills; Algebra; Geometry; Trigonometry

Pre-requisite Knowledge: None

Time Required: Three class periods

Materials: Writing materials

Method: Students are asked to list the qualities that make certain physical resources valuable. They are then asked to create a similar list for a human resource (employees). The instructor may help lead the discussion based on information learned from recent observations in business. Using the created list the students will rank these skills in order of importance from their point of view and an employer's point of view. Knowing that valuable physical resources (ex. gold, oil) are used to create wealth and satisfy wants, the students then relate the idea of using skills and talents to satisfy wants. Lastly the class brainstorms ideas about how these talents and skills can best be acquired, and a short reflection piece is assigned to allow for contemplation about their personal paths to develop skills and talents.

(RTW) Business and Industry Connection(s) Context: During the activity of creating a list of important skills, the instructor can use the information from discussions with the individuals observed at their assigned business to point out these skills and talents are truly real-world based.

Knowledge-Skills-Attitudes (KSA) of the PBL Activity:

Knowledge: An understanding of the skills and qualities needed in many of today's jobs; and that these jobs have as much value to their success as those provided by an academic education only.

Skills: An understandable list of skills that make an employee valuable to business and therefore more desirable

Attitudes: An understandable list of qualities that make an employee valuable to business and therefore more desirable

Resources for the KSAs: Working with our career day experience guest speakers are invited in to explain the benefits and opportunities of industrial occupations.

Assessment Strategies: The reflection piece allows the instructor to gauge the level of understanding**.**

Reflection and Debriefing: In the economics unit, the instructor refers back to those identified skills and talents and necessary resources for success in our market economy.

Evaluation of the Activity and the KSAs: A review of the list of valuable qualities of an employee can be given to further evaluate the level of understanding by the students.

References: This activity can be amplified with the perspective of a human resource or supervisor from business and industry.

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