

Additional Activities

MY TOOLS: Challenge 3

1 Activity 1

Form a group of three or four students. Review the CareerForward Farrah Gray interview in this Challenge section. Then go to the Cornell e-Clips Web site (<http://eclips.cornell.edu/entrepreneurs.do>) and watch two entrepreneur interviews. Note: Registration for this Web site is required but free.

After watching the interviews, respond in writing to the points below. Share your responses with the group.

1. Identify two to three traits or attitudes shared by these entrepreneurs. How did those traits contribute to their success?
2. Discuss what role failure played in the entrepreneurs' lives. How were they able to turn their failures into lessons that ultimately helped them become successful?
3. Describe how they planned for their success. What choices did they make along the way that allowed them to remain on the path to success?

2 Activity 2

This is an independent activity. Think about a place you'd like to work or even a business you'd like to run. Consider the kinds of employees you'd like to have. Then write a short description of one kind of employee you'd like to hire. List what you'd want to learn in an interview from anyone who applied for the job or from reference checks with the people for whom this person has worked. Then create a list of interview questions you would use to find the right employees.

3 Activity 3

This activity is student-led, although you may want to invite a teacher to monitor the discussions.

There are four main steps to this activity. For each step, talk with other students who are also taking the CareerForward course.

Step 1: Conduct a discussion.

Talk about what you learned from the resources in Challenge 3 - specifically, the characteristics that employers might look for while interviewing potential employees. Also, discuss other characteristics that aren't mentioned in the resources but that you think employers might be looking for. Write all of these in a list called "Desirable Characteristics in a Job Seeker."

Step 2: Create a list.

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3 Activity 3 continued

As a group, spend a few minutes brainstorming questions that employers might ask during a job interview. Try to think of at least 10 good questions, and write these in a list called "Possible Interview Questions." After you've written this list, compare it with your "Desirable Characteristics in a Job Seeker" list. Which of your questions could determine whether a person would make a good employee? Discuss how you could answer these questions during a job interview to put your best foot forward.

Step 3: Discuss these reflection questions:

1. What activities do you do now or could start doing that would make an employer want to hire you?
2. What personal strengths would you want to highlight during an interview?
3. What special characteristics would an employer look for in a sales representative? A computer programmer? A child care worker? Do you think differences between career fields influence the kinds of questions employers ask during interviews?

Step 4: Conduct interviews.

Here's your chance to practice interviewing each other. Have one person in your group be the interviewer and another person be the job seeker. The interviewer should ask several questions from the list of "Possible Interview Questions," each time allowing the job seeker to respond. When appropriate, the interviewer may want to ask spontaneous follow-up questions based on the job seeker's responses. Make sure everyone in the group has a chance to be the interviewer as well as the job seeker.

4 Activity 4

Get into a group of students. Have each student identify several adults who have been to college or another kind of school after high school. Each person in your group should ask a different adult the questions below. When you are finished, get together and share the adults' answers.

- How many students attended your school or college? How did the size of the student body affect your experience there?
- How many students were in your classes? How did the size of your classes influence the instruction and your learning?
- Did you ever live on campus? If so, what was that like? If not, why not?
- How did you spend your time when you weren't in class