

# Job Skills—What's the Big Deal?

## Subject

Careers

## Concept

Critical Thinking

## Grade Level

9 - 12

## National Career Guidelines

Competency VIII

Understanding How Societal Needs and Functions Influence the Nature and Structure of Work

## Type of Activity

Small Group and Large Group Discussion

## Related Occupations

Guidance Counselor

The student will evaluate different careers using job evaluation criteria such as educational requirements, salary, employee benefits, working hours, work environment, location, and career advancement, and prioritize according to personal goals.

### Materials/Supplies

Oklahoma Career Information System (OKCIS), Occupational Outlook Handbook, previous information they have obtained from web sites as [www.RecruitTech.com](http://www.RecruitTech.com), flip chart paper, markers, tape, pen/pencil

### ACTIVITY

- Students will identify the differences between unskilled, skilled, and professional jobs.

Discuss *skilled*, *unskilled*, and *professional jobs*.

**Skilled:** Must be trained in a specific skill.

**Unskilled:** Requires no skill.

**Professional:** Requires at least four years of college.

Have students get in small groups of 3 to 4 students. Each group will designate one recorder and one reporter. The recorder will write down the following information on the flip board paper.

Students will develop three lists of characteristics of jobs — one on unskilled jobs, e.g., garbage collector; one on skilled jobs, e.g., plumber; and one on professional jobs, e.g., school teacher.

Contrast the differences between characteristics of each of these three job categories.

*What are the differences? (Examples: Skills, responsibilities, work conditions, work hours, etc.)*

*What are some similarities?*

*How do salaries differ?*

*Do wages reflect the value of each of these types of work?*

*Are there differences in preparing to enter into each of these categories? What are they?*

*Are there also some similarities? What are they?*

Have the reporter tape the flip sheet on the wall and discuss the questions and the group's answers.

## EVALUATION

Students as a group will have compiled three lists of jobs - skilled, unskilled, and professional. They will have compared the similarities and the differences and identified what they believe are the most significant to their career choice. The students will be evaluated as to their group participation.