

CREATING YOUR FUTURE

THEME OF THE DAY
MY PLAN

Grades: Senior / High School

CREATE YOUR
OWN FUTURE



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- Language Arts
- Career Education/Personal Development

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Worksheet with the river banks and rocks
- Stickies



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ACTIVITY

TEACHER NOTES (ELABORATIONS)

The diagram above helps to explain career development by use of a metaphor. Each rock represents a choice in life. The person is trying to get across the river to the other side (a career destination) by jumping from rock to rock. Sometimes the person is required to change direction or backtrack somewhat because they have made adjustments to the career goal (the place on the shore they want to land). That arrival on the shore is not an end point, but rather just another goal in their career journey. The opposite shore should not be seen as the destination, but one of many destinations along their career journey.

An extension to this activity could include the students going back into the river from the opposite shore trying to reach a different location. Further, this activity could be accomplished kinesthetically, with larger rocks and students actually plotting a physical course across the river within the class. This activity could then include groups, making decisions, discussing, working on the path to get to the career goal on the other side.

Some important points for the above analogy:

- There is no such thing as the big career decision; career development is a series of many little decisions. Every decision is potentially a career decision.
- If you change the spot on the shore you are headed to you simply change direction or backtrack a few rocks to accommodate the change.
- The decisions you currently deal with are really which stone you will jump on next.
- It is very important to have a spot on the other shore to land. Otherwise, you are more likely to spend more time in the river than is necessary, and you are also more likely to come ashore by chance rather than design, increasing the likelihood of ending up in a situation you are not content.
- Once you do come ashore, you'll always jump back into the river from time to time to make adjustments; career development is a lifelong never-ending process

List of potential rocks:

- *Big rocks*: high school graduation, certification, winning a scholarship, receiving an award, getting part-time/summer jobs, volunteer experience, cooperative education work experience, student government position
- *Small rocks*: passing any course, having a job interview, travel experience, meeting deadlines, procuring a student loan, applying for scholarship, playing on a sports team, club membership, running for student government

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SPECIFIC ACTIVITY (WRITTEN IN STUDENT VOICE)

Map out a plan using the vehicle of fording a river using rocks. The opposite bank of the river is the goal location which may not be clearly defined. As I near the opposite bank my view of the goal becomes clearer, or perhaps it refocuses on something else now in view on that bank. As I cross the river there are rocks of many sizes. The large rocks are significant milestones in the career journey (e.g., high school graduation). The smaller rocks are still significant but may move with the current (passing Grade 12 English or applying for a scholarship). The journey across the river is not completely linear; I may need to step back to the bigger rocks (e.g., high school graduation) which have remained solid in my river unlike small rocks which may have washed away with the current.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Beyond the “path of achievement across the river,” complete an exit card explaining how the river analogy relates to your career plan.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS (IF REQUIRED)

- Sticker rocks with a river sheet
- Shoreline—What could I be?