

OVERVIEW

What is most important to you when deciding where to work? Overall, the more closely your values match your career, the more satisfying your work will be—and the easier it will be to succeed on the job and move closer to reaching your financial goals.

Decisions you make in the next few years can either give you a jumpstart on living the life you want or create detours which may limit your choices. The course you take will impact your financial goals, both short-term and long-term. This lesson will help you discover strategies to start down the path to achieve the lifestyle and financial goals of your dreams.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this lesson you will examine factors that impact your decisions about career choices and where you might live. Along the way you will:

- Identify trends that can potentially impact your options in the workplace.
- Explore how a person's values and preferences impact career and job choices.
- Discuss how the cost of living can impact your cash flow and lifestyle.

Use what you learn to establish career and lifestyle goals.

LEARNING TASKS

These tasks match pages 30-36 in Student Guide 3.

__ 1.	Kevin and Gina think a lot about where they see themselves in ten years. Where do you see yourself in ten years?
__ 2.	The general characteristics of the population are always changing in subtle ways. Learn about these changes to gain insight on the types of businesses and careers that will be hot down the road.
__ 3.	Identify what is important to you when deciding where to work as you complete Activity 3.11: My Values at Work .
__ 4.	So, where DO you want to live? Complete the Should I Stay or Go task to compare two places where you might want to live.
__ 5.	Daydream about your life ten years from now. Visualize all of the details: your family, your home, your career and your neighborhood. Complete the My Future Life task.
__ 6.	Write goals to get started on achieving the career and lifestyle you want as you complete Challenge 3-D: Planning for My Career .



TAKING IT HOME

Interview a family member or close adult to ask the following questions:

1. What do you do for a living and why did you choose this career (or job)?
2. If you could do this same job somewhere else, where would you go? Why?
3. If you could stay here and do a different job, what would you do? Why?
4. What advice would you give someone just starting the path to a first career?



FURTHER STUDY

Select two possible cities where you'd like to live in ten years. Ask your teacher for the handout to compare the benefits and costs about the cities.



FURTHER STUDY

Take the **Reality Check Challenge**, an online budget tool that gives you a quick look at what it costs to live on your own. Discover types of jobs that would support that lifestyle. Find the Reality Check at www.jumpstart.org/reality-check.html.

Activity 3-11: My Values at Work

NAME:

DATE:

Directions:

What is most important to you when deciding where to work? List three criteria you will consider when deciding on a job or career. (If you completed Activity 1.5 in *Module 1: Money Management*, review your values list before completing this activity.)

Criteria I Value in the Workplace	Why It's Important

Task: Work Setting Preferences

NAME:

DATE:

Directions:

What is your ideal work situation? Review the list below. Check the ten groups of workplace factors that relate to preferences that are most important to you. Then, based on your preferences, write a paragraph that describes what a day would be like in your ideal job situation.

For example, if you don't have a car, you might select #2 *Access to public transportation* or #5: *Commute time* (because you will walk or ride a bike) but not #1 *Access to parking*.

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1. Access to parking (If you prefer to drive, is parking reasonable and available?)
 2. Access to public transportation (Is public transportation an option and readily available?)
 3. Attire (Do you prefer business casual, casual, or business formal work clothes? Or do you prefer to wear a uniform?)
 4. Benefits (For your current life situation, are benefits important to you? What about health insurance, paid vacation days, paid sick days, or other typical benefits?)
 5. Commute time (How much time are you willing to spend on your commute to and from work?)
 6. Company size (Do you prefer to work at a large or small company or organization?)
 7. Compensation (Do you prefer a set salary, a lower salary plus tips, or a commission?)
 8. Customer contact (Would you prefer a higher level of contact with your customers/clients or to work more behind the scenes?)
 9. Deadlines (Do you prefer to have deadlines set for you, or would you rather set your own deadlines for work tasks?)
 10. Diversity (Do you prefer to work with a diverse group of coworkers or would you rather work with people who are most like you?)
 11. Education assistance (Would you be interested in working for a company that will fund or reimburse classes you take to further your education or job-related knowledge?)
 12. Health needs (Do you have health concerns that require accommodations, such as allergies or physical labor limitations?)

Task: Work Setting Preferences

13. Independence level (Would you prefer to work in a team or on your own?)
14. Onsite amenities (Do you prefer onsite daycare, gym, cafeteria or other amenities?)
15. Overtime (Do you prefer to work overtime in exchange for extra pay or time off later?)
16. Promotion (Do you want to work for a company where you have the opportunity for promotions?)
17. Raises (What is your preference on pay increases—automatic? Based on performance?)
18. Relocate (Are you willing to relocate if asked? Or is it important for you to stay where you are?)
19. Self-Employment (Do you want to work for yourself or someone else?)
20. Supervision (Do you prefer little or no supervision or lots of guidance and support?)
21. Training (Do you prefer a company that expects and provides training or one that does not?)
22. Travel (Do you prefer a job that requires you to travel, or do you want assurance that you will not have to travel?)
23. Type of office (Do you prefer a private office or cubical or a desk in a shared space?)
24. Unions (Do you want to belong to an employee union, or would you prefer to not work in a union environment?)
25. Urban proximity (Do you prefer a central location around other commercial development or a remote location away from the city?)
26. Values (Is it important for you to work for a company that reflects your personal values?)
27. Volunteerism (Do you want to work for a company that places a priority on volunteerism?)
28. Work from home (Do you want to be able to work at home either every day or on certain days?)
29. Work location (Do you prefer to work indoors or outdoors?)
30. Work schedule (Do you prefer a set work schedule or one that is flexible and varies? Do you need to limit work to specific days or hours each week?)

Description of my ideal day at work:

Task: My Future Life

NAME:

DATE:

Directions:

Relax and daydream about your life ten years from now. Visualize all of the details: your family, your home, your career and your neighborhood. Think about as many details as possible. Is the town you live in large or small? Are you involved in your community? Where do you volunteer or contribute to charity? Is your job steady and secure or exciting and risky? Do you travel a lot? Do you have a car; if so, what kind? What do you do for fun? Are you working 9 to 5, shift work, or part-time?

A. Gather information for your current career choice:

Average starting salary:

Education/training required:

Job outlook in the city/state of my choice:

B. Now, complete the following statements:

"I plan to work toward a career as a _____
with a beginning salary of \$_____. The type of education or training that is
required for my chosen career is _____.
This career typically (does/ does not) provide benefits. I know I will be able to
find work in this career if I live in the town/city of _____
in the state of _____."

C. Write down two steps you can take in the next month to move you closer to your chosen career or occupation:

Step 1:

Step 2:

Task: Should I Stay or Go?

NAME:

DATE:

If you're thinking about moving to get a job, look at three things before you make the leap:

- **Cost of living**—the average cost of items such as rent, taxes, transportation, insurance, utilities, and food in an area. A \$30,000 salary may sound like a hefty amount in the small community of Blue Lake, California. But it may be impossible to live comfortably on that in San Francisco.
- **Average salaries.** Areas with a higher cost of living usually offer higher salaries. But the supply of and demand for workers in the local job market play a role, too. A shortage of qualified workers will push salaries higher—as employers compete to fill openings—while an excess of qualified workers can drive salaries down.
- **Moving costs.** Even do-it-yourself movers may need to rent a van, buy boxes, pay deposits for a new place and utilities, and rent storage.

Are you considering moving away from family and friends who provided free babysitting services, car maintenance, or house repairs? Better add those expenses into your spending plan. You also need to adjust your budget for the reduced income while you look for a job in the new location.

Directions:

Fill in the chart below to compare the costs of living in two different cities. Compare your current location to a different location where you might want to live. (As an alternative, use Kevin's scenario.)

Search online for a cost-of-living calculator to search the average costs of living in different cities. (Calculator examples: [Bankrate.com Cost of Living Calculator](http://www.bankrate.com) or <http://www.bestplaces.net>) Based on the data you find, which city do you think is the better option for you (or Kevin)? Why? What additional criteria and costs might you consider in the decision to stay or go?

Kevin's Scenario: Kevin doesn't care for cold winters in Duluth, Minnesota, so he is thinking about moving to a warmer climate in the area of San Diego, California. His brother suggests that Kevin research the cost of living before setting his mind on moving to a different city.

	Current Town	Dream Town
Name of the Town		
Name of the Job Position		
Average Salary		
Overall Cost of Living		
% Difference in Cost of Living		
% Difference in Average Salary		
Unemployment Rate		
Future Job Growth Rate		
Income Tax Rate		

Task: Tale of Two Cities

NAME:

DATE:

Directions:

Select two possible cities where you'd like to live in ten years. Then gather information to compare the benefits and costs about the cities.

I am comparing _____ to _____ .

Category	Which city...	Answer	Data
Population	...has an older population?		Average age:
Population	...has more single people?		Percentage of single people:
Climate	...gets more rain?		Rain fall:
Climate	...gets more snow?		Snow fall:
Climate	...is sunnier?		Sunny days:
Cost of Living	...has a lower cost of living?		Cost of living score:
Crime	...is safer?		Violent crime rate: Property crime rate:
Economy	...has the lower unemployment rate?		Unemployment rate:
Economy	... anticipates a higher future job growth rate?		Future Job growth:
Economy	...has a lower sales tax?		Sales tax rate:
Economy	...has a lower income tax rate?		Income tax rate:
Economy	...has a higher average household income?		Household income:
Health	...has better air?		Air quality score:
Health	...has better water?		Water quality score:
Housing	...has a lower average housing cost?		Median home cost:
Transportation	...has a longer average commute to work?		Average commute time:
Transportation	...uses "greener" commuting methods?		Carpool: Mass Transit: Work from home:

