

JOBS OF THE FUTURE



**3 TEENS DOING
(AWESOME!)
APPRENTICESHIPS**

**QUIZ: FIND YOUR
DREAM JOB!**

EARN AND LEARN!

Get this: You can try out a career while still in school, get paid for it, and find out what you want to be when you grow up—through an apprenticeship.

Did you know that you can earn money to learn new skills—while still in school? You absolutely can. With a youth apprenticeship, you can get a paycheck while gaining skills that could lead to a good-paying job.

Teens who are 16 and older can use a youth apprenticeship to get a jump start on a career while still in high school. Interested in job training while earning income, an industry-recognized credential (which proves to employers you've got serious skills), and possibly even free college credits? Youth apprenticeships offer you hands-on learning, in a real workplace with coworkers and mentors, and a way into fields with job growth. "Apprenticeships provide students with relevant school-day, after-school, and summer work, and the opportunity to gain permanent employment



or acceptance into an advanced education program after high school," says Ken Frazier, program director at Rochester Regional Health in New York.

What are some hot fields that also have opportunities for youth apprenticeships? Careers where jobs are growing fast include: information technology and cybersecurity; advanced manufacturing and aerospace; energy; health sciences; finance and business; architecture and construction; and hospitality, lodging, and tourism.



"I see surgeries in person."

Yamilex Morales | age 17 | senior

Health care apprentice

What do you do as an apprentice?

I rotate among different departments at Rochester Regional Health in New York, so I've worked in pediatrics with kids, and in cardiology among heart patients. I've learned to take people's vital signs, like their blood pressure and temperature. My current assignment is my favorite: the

operating room. I help the operating room get ready for surgical procedures. I also help restock the carts that contain sterile surgical tools and instruments.

What do you like about the job?

It's exciting! I've seen several surgeries up close. I recently got to watch the removal of a patient's tumor with robotic surgery.

How do you fit in apprenticing with school?

I go to school for a full day, then several days a week I take the city bus to my apprenticeship and work there for four hours. I'll rotate through more departments and graduate from the program at the end of my senior year with a certificate and 2,000 hours of experience in health care to show an employer.



An apprenticeship offers hands-on learning in a real workplace with coworkers and mentors.

Maybe you have ideas about what you want to be when you grow up, or maybe you don't. A youth apprenticeship can help you nurture a passion or discover a career. To find out more, have your parent speak to your school administrator. Trusted adults can help you look online for your state's youth apprenticeship programs. And for serious inspiration, check out these teens who are finishing high school while making youth apprenticeships work for them!

Photo credit: © (top) SoStock/Getty Images; (right) Photo courtesy of Commonwealth Office of Technology in Frankfort, KY; (bottom) photo courtesy of Corliss Barnister, Trident Technical College



“Cybersecurity is like learning clues in a game.”

Gar Hunter | 18 | senior

Information technology (IT) apprentice

What drew you to apprenticing in IT?

I was always fascinated with computers, so when a teacher told me about this opportunity I applied. I started apprenticing the summer before senior year at the Commonwealth Office of Technology, a state government office in Frankfort, Kentucky. I'm a hands-on learner plus technology is a field that changes rapidly, so I'm learning things on the job that a textbook alone can't keep up with. I go to my high school classes for half the day and spend the other half apprenticing.

What are some of the things you've learned?

Working in IT is a little like being a detective. People might simply say their computer is “broken,” so I have to find out the issue before I can fix it. I help set up computers for the person using it next. That includes wiping hard drives; I completely clean them of data for security reasons. Lately, I've been learning to strip old parts from laptops and work in new parts, to help each computer last as long as possible.

What else have you learned?

I used to think I wanted to be a programmer, but now I want to work in cybersecurity. I like keeping information protected and the idea of learning how to detect unwanted activity. I've also learned how to speak up and ask questions so I can learn to the best of my abilities and how to accept criticism. I plan to finish my apprenticeship to earn a certificate and possibly take a gap year before college to get more on-the-job experience.

“I love talking to all the new people I meet every day.”

Carson Kosar | age 17 | senior

Hotel operations apprentice

How did you learn about apprenticeship?

I saw a school flyer and then met with a counselor. I wasn't sure what I wanted to be when I graduated, but I have good time-management skills and I'm a social person. Hotel operations looked interesting to me, and we agreed it might be a good fit. I apprentice at Hyatt Place, in North Charleston, South Carolina.



What is apprenticing like at a hotel?

Every day is different because the hospitality industry is changing constantly, and I kind of do everything. I answer the phones at the front

desk, serve coffee to business travelers, troubleshoot technical problems, and I try to be prepared for large groups coming to the hotel.

What skills have you learned?

I'm always practicing time management, to balance school and work. And I'm using hospitality skills I learn in class in real life, such as patience, empathy, how to make conversation, being genuinely kind, and especially really *listening* to guests, coworkers, and your boss when they give you constructive criticism, and learning from it.

DO WHAT YOU LOVE FOR A CAREER

Doing what you like can guide you to the perfect career. Check the activities below that seem most interesting, then see where you have the most picks.

ARTISTIC

- Write books or movie scripts
- Create movie special effects
- Compose, arrange, or play music
- Paint sets for plays
- Draw pictures

BUSINESS-MINDED

- Manage a store
- Market a new line of clothing
- Start your own business
- Represent a client in a lawsuit
- Sell stocks and bonds

HANDS-ON

- Set up and operate machines
- Build things with tools
- Assemble electronic parts
- Repair appliances
- Put out forest fires

HELPING OTHERS

- Teach kids sign language or your favorite subject
- Help people with their personal or emotional problems
- Show someone how to play sports
- Help someone recover from an injury
- Do volunteer work

INVENTIVE

- Create a healthier alternative to sugar
- Develop a new medicine
- Investigate the cause of a fire
- Conduct chemical experiments
- Do laboratory tests

IS THIS JOB FOR YOU?

Here are some ideas to start your exploration.

- **Artistic** architect; graphic designer; music director; video game designer; sound engineering technician; author
- **Business-Minded** real estate sales agent; spa manager; marketing manager; fitness and wellness coordinator; financial manager; meeting and event planner; paralegal
- **Hands-On** solar energy system engineer; manufacturing engineer; IT security analyst; aerospace engineering and operations technician; forester
- **Helping Others** health educator; teacher; athletic trainer; social worker; nurse; school psychologist
- **Inventive** forensic science technician; fire investigator; medical and clinical laboratory technician; web developer

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

So how much money does the average American make? Answer: \$48,251.57 per year. How far that money will go depends on the cost of living in the area where you live.

Check out these median annual salaries in fields that often offer youth apprenticeships.



Aerospace engineering and operations technician
\$67,010



Computer programmer
\$84,280



Emergency medical technician (EMT)
\$34,320



Information security analyst
\$98,350



Licensed practical nurse (LPN)
\$46,240



Meeting/convention/event planner
\$49,370



Surgical technologist
\$47,300


TEACHING GUIDE


SOFT SKILLS



THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

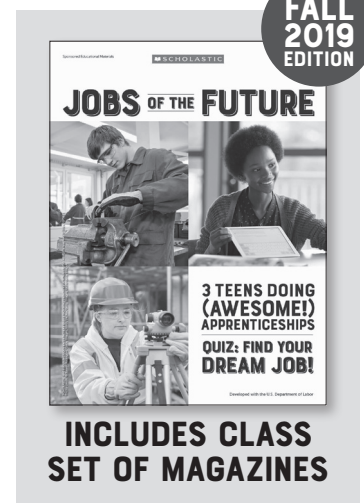
Career-Focused Activities That Boost ELA & Life Skills

DEAR TEACHER,

It's never too early to start your students thinking about their future and the life skills they'll need for success. Developed with Scholastic and the U.S. Department of Labor, these materials will help your middle school students explore future careers and introduce them to hands-on youth apprenticeship opportunities they can plan to take advantage of in high school. Inside you'll find:

- ✓ Standards-supporting lessons and activity sheets
- ✓ Engaging classroom poster
- ✓ *Jobs of the Future* student magazine

Get more lessons at [scholastic.com/apprenticeship](https://www.scholastic.com/apprenticeship).



Developed with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Pursuant to the National Apprenticeship Act, the Department of Labor works to expand opportunities related to apprenticeship programs.

UNDERSTANDING SOFT SKILLS

Introduce students to life skills they'll need for on-the-job success.

Objective

Students will discuss job skills, analyze informational text, and define career-related vocabulary, citing evidence from the text to support their ideas.

CCSS Standards, Grades 6–8

- WHST.9—draw evidence from informational texts
- RI.4—determine the meaning of words and phrases as used in a text
- SL.1.A—come to discussions prepared

Time

90 minutes (over two class periods)

Materials

- *Jobs of the Future* student magazine
- Learning on the Job activity sheet
- Match the Skills to the Job activity sheet



Part 1 of 2

1 Hook students to think about a job kids their age might do, like walking a neighbor's dog.

Ask: *What skills do you need to do this job well?* (Answers could include being on time, cleaning up after the dog, being gentle, etc.) Now have them take their best guess at what the terms **hard skills** and **soft skills** might mean. Explain that hard skills are knowledge-based and describe someone's technical ability to do tasks related to a specific job. Soft skills are based on behavior and describe how someone completes tasks and how they work with others.

2 Give examples of soft skills (e.g., problem-solving, patience, clear communication), then create a comprehensive list as a class. Point out that while people can learn hard skills through specific training or on the job, they can learn soft skills at any time, both in and out of school and through a youth apprenticeship.

3 Ask the class to describe skills they believe a doctor needs. Label each as a hard skill or soft skill in two columns. Then have students pair up to brainstorm how a doctor's ability to do their job might be affected without soft skills. Poll the class: *Would they want to see this doctor if they didn't like their interactions? Why?*

4 Guide students to discuss why soft skills are important in any job. Emphasize that soft skills impact how well a person does their job, how well they work in a team, and how consistently they excel at their tasks.

5 Distribute the student magazine and have students read the feature article and career profiles, and take the quiz. Direct them to pay attention to keywords as they read and use context clues to understand the meaning. Make sure they think about the main ideas and supporting details.

6 Hand out the Learning on the Job activity sheet. Have students research the definitions of keywords and use textual information to answer questions.

Part 2 of 2

1 Explain that employers seeking to hire young people for an apprenticeship (see student magazine) or a job look for candidates with strong soft skills, as students may have limited work experience or hard skills. Share that it can be difficult to develop soft skills without a real situation to respond to, so finding a work opportunity like an apprenticeship is a great way to build soft skills through experience.

2 Challenge students to identify soft skills they have already started to develop (e.g., being on time and prepared for school, helping siblings resolve conflicts, working productively in project groups, navigating personal setbacks, etc.).

3 Emphasize the importance of soft skills in school and the workplace. Read these two scenarios aloud: *You didn't do well on a test and need to ask your teacher for help. You want to join an after-school club, but you don't know anyone in it.* Ask students to write down the action they would take in each scenario, identify the soft skills each action requires, and describe what outcome each soft skill would help them achieve.

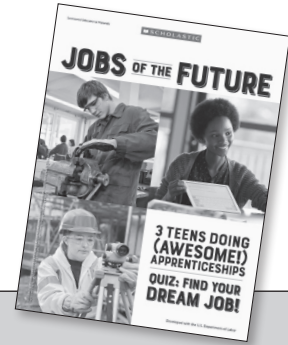
4 Distribute the Match the Skills to the Job activity sheet. Have students discuss their answers in groups. (Possible answers: **1.** detail-oriented, communication, proactive; **2.** time management, collaboration, communication; **3.** active listening, communication, problem-solving; **4.** time management, proactive, adaptability, problem-solving.)

5 Wrap up by prompting students to share at least one occupation they're interested in. Ask: *What types of hard and soft skills would set you up for success?*

Extension

Have students write a persuasive essay highlighting three soft skills they believe are essential to *any* job.

Name _____



LEARNING ON THE JOB

Read the article and profiles in the *Jobs of the Future* magazine. Then use information from the text to answer these questions.

Keyword	How would you define this term in your own words?
apprenticeship	
trade	
profession	
hard skills	
soft skills	

1 What is the purpose of a youth apprenticeship?

2 Why is it helpful to learn about possible career pathways before starting high school?

3 What advantages does a youth apprenticeship give students when applying for a job?





THINK IT THROUGH Why is it important to develop both hard skills and soft skills?

Name _____

MATCH THE SKILLS TO THE JOB



Study the soft skills in the word bank, then read each job scenario and decide which skills best apply to each scenario and why. Be prepared to explain your thinking to your classmates!

SOFT SKILLS	JOB SCENARIO 1: Hotel Event Planner 
time management	<p>You're an apprentice at a hotel and your boss has put you in charge of logistics for a corporate retreat, including checking in guests, setting up meeting rooms, and making sure lunch arrives on time. You need to be super organized—and ready to interact with people all day long!</p>
active listening	<p>JOB SCENARIO 2: Social Media Manager </p> <p>At the last minute, your supervisor has decided to change the media focus for an upcoming product launch. She gives you and your team 48 hours to design and deliver a detailed presentation that lays out a new strategy for how to promote the product online. And...go!</p>
detail-oriented	<p>JOB SCENARIO 3: Financial Services Rep </p> <p>Your manager has put you in charge of handling all customer questions and concerns (over the phone and in-person) about a new service that many are having issues with. You are expected to resolve as many problems as you can, then report which complaints need further attention.</p>
problem-solving	<p>JOB SCENARIO 4: Cybersecurity Analyst </p> <p>There's been a major security breach in a corporate network that your company serves. Your boss is unreachable, and the situation is changing by the minute. Your main goals are to target and fix the major glitches as quickly as possible and keep the client calm and informed.</p>
effective communication	
adaptability/patience	
collaboration	
creativity	
proactive/self-starter	

PART 2

On a separate piece of paper, write a description of what the difference would be if someone with strong soft skills were in each scenario versus someone with weak soft skills. Next, think about your own soft-skill strengths and what you need to improve on. Write about how an apprenticeship could help you develop better soft skills, and how those skills could help you in your future career.

5 SKILLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED!

Want to make a great impression? It's never too early to build your soft skills at school, at a volunteer gig, or as a youth apprentice.



POSITIVE ATTITUDE

You are enthusiastic, willing to try new things, excited to learn as you go.



EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT

You are good at meeting deadlines, organized, focused, reliable about getting tasks done.



CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

You are innovative, good at thinking outside the box, excited to find a smart solution when a problem comes up.



PRODUCTIVE TEAMWORK

You are comfortable working with a group to achieve a common goal, collaborative, a good listener.



FLEXIBILITY

You are able to stay calm in a crisis, willing to try new tasks, good at adapting to sudden changes.