

Going to Work: unlocking job readiness skills in your classroom

Kelly Folsom, X-Cel Education, Bridge Designer and Instructor

November 8, 2023

Welcome! Goals and Objectives

- Analyze your program's curriculum to identify job readiness activities and tools you are already using
- Identify job readiness activities and tools that could be used in your classroom
- Understand the value of integrating job readiness tools and activities into your classroom

Getting to know you (building a cohort)

- ► A little about me
- ► Things I like (1)
- ► Activity: share name, organization, role, and one thing from the "Things I like" sheet

About Bridges (job readiness programming)

- ► Focus, length, timing all vary based on pathway, training program, or profession
- ► Three overarching themes:
 - Focus on job readiness/soft skills
 - Focus on technical skills and job knowledge/exploration
 - Focus on reflection

Surveys (what do students need?)

- ▶ Documents 2-15
- ► You can use surveys as pre and post assessments
- ► Can be used to begin defining employer expectations
- Can be used for reflections and discussion
- Job Values Inventory

Contracts (setting expectations)

- ▶ Documents 16-19
- Explain goals, values, expectations of the program
- ► Use employer experiences and feedback as guide/examples
- ► Attendance: who's responsible? Student?, instructor?, paper?, computer?

General Job Readiness/Learning

- ▶ Documents 20-27
- Concepts and inspiration (Malleable Intelligence)
- ► Habit building
- Instructor observation and reflection
- Games (communication, teamwork, stress, critical thinking, initiative)
 - ➤ Silent lineup, mastermind, playdoughinary, peek-a-who, keypunch, padlock, order up, describe it-draw it

Conflict Management

- ▶ Documents 28-37
- Reading
- ► Role playing
- Discussion
- ► Examples from experience, "think like an employer"
- ▶ Is respect "earned" or "given"?
- ► How to report abuse

Time Management

- ▶ Documents 38-41
- ► Hard to manage others lives without getting into details
- ▶ Habits
- ► Tools, reminders, alarms
- ► Employer expectations (class expectations....what if the instructor was late? No call, no show?)

Stress Management

- ▶ Documents 42-55
- ► Healthy habits and activities
- ► Friends and family
- ► Work life balance?
- ► Work-home? Home-work?

Feedback and Employer interactions (interviews and resumes)

- ▶ Documents 56-64
- Delivering feedback
- ► Understanding job description and resume vocabulary
- ► Writing stories, practicing delivery (who am I?)

Technical skills and Job knowledge/exploration

- Documents 65-end
- ► Varies by Bridge (hands-on, Green Jobs)
- ► Kitchen reading
- Culinary math
- Notetaking
- Vocabulary



Thank you!

We want your feedback. Insert evaluation link

Learn more about upcoming First Literacy Professional Development Workshops at www.firstliteracy.org/professional-development-workshops/

Follow First Literacy on Facebook | LinkedIn | Twitter | Instagram