Career & College Readiness Lesson Plans

Gaining by Giving

Career Exploration

Grade Level 9

Overview
Students will learn how they can develop career-relevant skills by researching opportunities available at community service organizations.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify primary community needs and service learning opportunities.
- Describe how community service provides career-relevant skills.
- Relate possible careers to individual interests and abilities.

Language Objectives
At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Verbally describe how working with community service organizations can help develop career skills.
- Listen to the opinions of others and use that information in their own writing.

Standards Alignment

- California Common Core State Standards: College & Career Readiness Anchor Standards:
  - W. 2, 4; SL. 1, 4, 6
- California Career Technical Education Anchor Standards:
  - 5, 7, 9
- California Standards for Career Ready Practice:
  - 2, 5
- National Career Development Guidelines:
  - PS 2, ED 2
- International Society for Technology in Education Standards:
  - 2, 3, 4
- English Language Development Standards:
  - Part 1: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
  - Part 2: 6
• American School Counselor Association Mindsets & Behaviors:
  o M 5; BLS 10; BSS 4

Materials
1. Computer with Internet access for students
2. Computer with Internet access and projection capability for instructor
3. Projector and screen
4. Black board or white board or chart paper (for recording student responses)
5. Blank paper to give to students
6. Student Handout
   • Gaining by Giving (pp. 5–6)
7. Online Resource
   • Gaining by Giving Start-Up Video
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ysbPUvQHN4

Academic Vocabulary
• **Charitable**: means of or relating to the assistance of those in need.
• **Community Service Organization**: is a nonprofit entity organized to help community members to address problems in the community.
• **Need**: is something necessary or indispensable: food, shelter, and other necessities of life.
• **Volunteer**: is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.

Activity
Students will discuss the importance of community service organizations, research the different community service opportunities, identify an organization they can volunteer with, and present findings to the class.

Getting Ready
• Preview the “Gaining by Giving” start-up video (link in Materials section)
• Identify Web sites that highlight local community service organizations and volunteering opportunities
• Review the handouts
Lesson Procedures

1. Introduce the lesson by showing the “Gaining by Giving” start-up video (link in Materials section) and confirm students understand what to expect. Or you can introduce the lesson without the video by describing the topic and activity.

2. Provide each student with a piece of paper. Ask students to write about one challenge that their family has faced and one experience that has brought their family greater joy. (Be sure to caution students to write about something they can share out with the larger group.)

3. When everyone is done writing, ask students to share-out experiences with the larger group. Record experiences by larger headings such as, death of a loved one, grief, addiction, and homelessness, etc. Explain that communities have many needs and many of those needs are met by volunteer organizations.

4. As a class, brainstorm the local community’s needs and the services that are available to address those needs. On the board or using chart paper, draw a T and list the organization name on the left and the services they provide on the right.

5. Inform the class that volunteering in a community service organization is a great opportunity to learn important job skills and it is important for keeping communities healthy. Volunteering can be a way to try out a job that looks interesting; it is also a way to begin creating a network of professionals who can help with job hunting.

6. Ask students if they have volunteered. For those that have volunteered, ask them what skills they learned; who they met that left an impression; and what their volunteering did for the community.

7. As a class, brainstorm the types of jobs that can be found in community service organizations (e.g. community organizers, event planners, community liaisons, outreach coordinators, logistics managers, etc.) and brainstorm the types of career skills that can be developed by volunteering (e.g. leadership, communication, and organizational skills, etc.).

8. Give students the “Gaining by Giving” handout and have students research different resources to find at least five community service organizations where they can volunteer and/or learn about potential jobs. Sources to research include the Internet, the Yellow Pages, and state or county agency directories.

- You may wish to research the service organizations and provide students a beginning list of possibilities.

9. When students have found their community organization, have them write a reflective paragraph ranking in order of preference the service or service organizations for which they would most likely volunteer and explain how they could contribute.
10. Wrap Up. Volunteering in your community is a way to gain experience and make contacts for future employment or job references while also helping to make your community a better place.

11. Remind students to put their work into their career portfolios.

---

**IMPORTANT** State and federal laws govern the conditions and limitations for Internet usage by children under the age of 13. Before using the Internet, check your district policies and/or state and federal regulations.

---

**Estimated Time**

One class session

**Evaluation**

Evaluation will be based on:

- Students’ participation in class discussion.
- Completion of research.
- Handout and one-page reflective writing (using proper sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling).

**Additional Resources**

- [Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer](https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/involvement/community/reasons.html), University of California San Diego
- [Benefits of Volunteering](http://www.nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/benefits-volunteering), Corporation for National and Community Service
- [Young Volunteers: The Benefits of Community Service](http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/cd/2003/fs0323.pdf), Molly Latham, University of Nevada, Reno

**Attribution**

Gaining by Giving is adapted from [Learning to Give: Treasure of Community Service](http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit136/lesson4.html), developed by Katherine Mehney and Melissa Milton, Utica Community Schools, Eisenhower High School, Oxford, MI 48371.


This lesson and all other lessons and materials are posted on the California Career Resource Network Web site at [www.californiacareers.info](http://www.californiacareers.info).

---
Gaining by Giving

Name ________________________________   Date ___________________________

1. List a minimum of five needs that exist in your community:

2. List a minimum of five community service organizations that exist in your community:

3. List at least four other community service organizations you would like to explore further:
4. Reflective paragraph – Rank-order the four organizations you listed in number three. For each organization, explain what the organization’s purpose is and why you want to volunteer there. Explain what you would contribute to the organization’s goals and purpose and what you think you would gain by volunteering there.