Experiential Learning Tools for Career Education

Realityworks
- Distribution into Education
  - 67% of school districts in the U.S.
  - 90 countries worldwide
  - 35,000 institutions
  - 6,000,000 students served through the use of our products
- Education Partner
  - Association for Career and Technical Education Board
  - Chair of Industry Workforce Needs Coalition (IWNC)
- Educational Focus
  - Hardware, software, learning aids & curriculum development

Realityworks Mission
“We seek to improve the human condition by enabling educators to show probable outcomes of behaviors and choices.”

Who We Partner With…

Innovative Learning Tools for Skills Training
FACS | Health Sciences | Agriculture | Welding and Trade Skills

Experiential Learning
What is Experiential Learning?

Experiential learning offers students assignments and activities based on real-life situations or primary research that engage them in reflective, data-driven problem-solving with no predetermined right answers.

Kids want to know WHY...

...WHY am I learning this: math, angles, ENGLISH...

Tell me and I’ll forget.

Show me and I may remember

Involve me and I will learn.

Experiential Learning

- Concept: any learning that supports students in applying their knowledge and conceptual understanding...
- Authentic: to real-world problems or authentic situations...
- Facilitate: where the instructor directs and facilitates learning.
- Research-based: David Kolb, John Dewey, Wurdinger & Carlson

How Experiential Learning Tools Work

Consider Your Challenges as an Instructor...

- Keep safety a priority
- Create individualized learning in classrooms spanning multiple grades
- Manage the classroom and students effectively
- Keep aligned to standards and educational best practices
- All while engaging and motivating students!
Ways our tools help.....

Develop interest & train career skills
Manage expanding need for skilled workers
• pre-qualify students
• Leverage technology to provide real-time feedback and assessment
Increase skill development while reducing cost & training time
Engage Special Education students
Learning technology is an attractive community outreach strategy too...
• Gain support for programs
• Show the value of career and technical courses
• Attraction for/or industry partnerships

Experiential Learning Has Generation Z in Mind!

Motivated by.....

• Security
  – They were children during the Great Recession of 2007
  – Want to avoid debt

• Independence
  – Many are skipping college and going straight into the workforce

Generation Z

• Born between 1995 and 2012 (ages 6-22)
• Tech savvy
  – Multitasking
  – 8 second attention span

WARNING!

THIS NEXT ONE WILL SHOCK YOU
Generation Z’ers

Prefer to talk face to face
Be prepared to DISCUSS with them!

Teaching Generation Z

• Keep content small, chunking
• Information across multiple modalities
• Be flexible

It’s about the Experience

• Students read less than 20% of text
• Prefer active, hands-on learning
• Will disengage in the learning if they don’t see the relevance

Why is as important as What

• Evidenced based reasoning
• Start with why before teaching how
• Simon Sinek TED Talk, “Start with Why”

How They View Educators?

• No longer experts
  – Online sources are more credible to them!
• Facilitators or guides

The Content

• Short Presentation
  – May include questions to students
  – Quizzes
  – Videos
• Be clear
• Embrace Experiential Learning
Discussions

• Peer to Peer
• Group Activities

Why do soft skills matter?

• 61% of managers believe soft skills are the most important
• 77% of employers think personality skills are just as important as hard skills, and 16% find them more important.
• 44% of employers chose soft skills as the biggest gap in the US workforce
• 85% of job success comes from having well-developed soft skills, and only 15% of job success comes from technical skills

Don’t Forget the Soft Skills!

What are soft skills?

• Communication
• Teamwork
• Problem Solving
• Critical Thinking
• Using Technology
• Time Management
• Interviews
• Motivation
• Work Ethic
• Listening
• Respect
• Responsibility
• Flexibility
• Interpersonal Skills
• Negotiation
• Networking
• Patience
• Presentation Skills
• Self-Confidence
• Stress Management

Best practices for teaching soft skills

Best practice #1: Engage your students

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.” - Benjamin Franklin
Best Practices for teaching soft skills: Engage your students

**Idea: Start class with a handshake**

- Do it daily
- Ensure the encounter includes a firm handshake, eye contact and a polite greeting

**Best practice #2: Instill professionalism in your classroom**

- Best place to start is in the classroom!
  - Key is to be consistent
  - Set clear expectations
    - Arrive on time
    - Come prepared
    - Proper spelling/punctuation
    - Dress for success
  - Lead by example

Best Practices for teaching soft skills: Engage your students

**Idea: Small talk conversation cards**

- Use anytime
- Emphasize that students must maintain the 3 P’s: polite, positive, professional
- Examples: “Are you reading any good books/watching any good shows right now?” “What are you looking forward to this week?” “What sports team are you rooting for this season?” “Did you hear the news about [fill in the blank]?"

**Best Practices for teaching soft skills: Instill professionalism in the classroom**

- Classic scenarios:
  - Job interview
  - Dealing with customer complaints
  - Handling disruptive clients
  - Marketing new products

- New ideas:
  - Incorporate the idea of technology
  - Debate
  - Be creative
  - Bring in others

**Best practice #3: Teach soft skills in every class**

- Oral speaking requirements
- Reflection activities
- Cost-saving requirements
- Role-play
- Self-invent changes to assignments
What is the RealCareer Employability Skills Program?

- Ready-to-use
- Includes curriculum, student workbooks, activities and teaching materials
- Addresses 20 soft skills

The RealCareer Employability Skills Program addresses 20 soft skills:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Using Technology
- Time Management
- Interviews
- Motivation
- Work Ethic
- Listening
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Flexibility
- Interpersonal Skills
- Negotiation
- Networking
- Patience
- Presentation Skills
- Self-Confidence
- Stress Management

Lesson – Preparing for a Job Interview

Lesson - Listening

Lesson – Problem Solving and Critical Thinking

Square peg in a round hole.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QETus6zBBvo
Lesson - Communication Skills
Active Practice Using Verbal Communication Skills - Activity

• Divide into groups of 4
• Assign a Director, Manager, Creator and Observer
• Give the Director the picture of their object.
• Give the Creator the blank sheet to draw on.
• Follow the written instructions.
• Give each group 5-10 minutes to complete the activity.
• Compare the before and after results.

RealCareer™ Employability Skills
Curriculum:
• Teach a complete unit on employability skills
• Generate real-life discussions
Lessons Include:
• Problem Solving & Time Management
• Interviews & Work Ethic
• Self-Confidence & Stress Management
Product includes:
• 19-lesson Teacher Guide
• 19 Career Workplace Scenario Cards
• Set of 20 Student Workbooks
• 33 Presentation slides

COST: starting at $499

Developing Workforce Ready Skills with Realityworks
Experiential Learning Tools

The RealCare™ Program
Explore how pregnancy impacts life goals and experience the physical symptoms of third trimester.

Powerful demonstrations teach the effects drug and alcohol use has on infants in utero.

Comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention and parenting skills system with hands-on infant care simulation.

Learn coping skills for infant crying, new impact of abusive head trauma, & create plan to deal with frustrations.
RealCare® Baby Curriculum

- Parenting
- Basic Infant Care
- Healthy Choices
- Life Skills and Healthy Choices for Middle School Students

Healthy Choices Topics

- Plans and values
- Influences Around us
- Communication and Self Esteem
- Communication in Relationships
- Relationship Continuum
- Reproductive System, Fertilization and conception
- Family planning—birth control
- Benefits of Abstinence
- HIV and STD’s
- Pregnancy and Prenatal development
- Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol
- The Birth Process
- Care and needs of an infant
- Impact of baby on goals, relationships and time
- Cost of a baby
- Hands on Practice Caring for an infant

The Need for Welders

By 2025 there will be a need for 400,000 replacement and new welding professionals.

Today, welders are retiring at 2x the pace of welders who are coming into the job field.

Welding and Trade Skills

Immediate Feedback
Welding Curriculum Overview

Product includes
- Portable wall panel to demonstrate proper wiring skills
- Provides hands-on practice wiring common electrical circuits
- Safely identify issues at a glance with the Assessment Kit
- Focuses on Basic wiring skills, introductory electrical theory, and standard electrical symbols

Electrical Wiring Kit
COST: $999/unit

Creating Student Engagement Through Experiential Learning Tools

Animal Systems

Plant Systems

Agriculture

Health Sciences
Nursing/CNA/Gerontology

LESSON

- **KEEP CHANGING UP YOUR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES** (to keep students engaged)
- **KEEP ACTIVITIES SHORT** (this one was 5 minutes)
- **INCORPORATE SOFT SKILLS** (teamwork, communication, dealing with pressure, time management)

IF YOU DO WHAT YOU ALWAYS DID, YOU’LL GET WHAT YOU ALWAYS GOT!