

NAME OF ACTIVITY

UNIT: Employment Skills

TASK: Math calculations

ACTIVITY TYPE: Worksheet

APPROXIMATE TIME: 50 minutes

MATERIALS: Calculators, Arkansas NEXT magazine, worksheets, Bureau of Labor Statistics

PROCEDURE:

1. Students find the post-secondary school of choice for their tentative career goal from the Arkansas Next Magazine
2. Show students the BLS fact comparing education level, unemployment rate, and average income.
3. Students may calculate their lifetime earnings with their education plans and compare it to working without the higher level of education
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

ENRICHMENT: Value education

Calculating Opportunity Cost Going to College

Calculate the cost for going to college versus the income you might earn without college during your work life. Use the *NEXT Magazine* or *CareerCruising.com* to find school tuition and housing costs. Use average earnings from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (attached) or from the earnings listed on your career goal job brief.

1. Calculate the cost for your school of choice post-secondary education .
 - A. Estimate the number of years that are required for your post-secondary (after high school) education. _____
 - B. Find or estimate the tuition and housing costs for attending your school of choice per year \$_____
 - C. _____ x \$_____ = \$_____

(years) (tuition) (cost of education)

2. From the Bureau of Labor Statistics find and estimate the average income you would earn by going directly into the workforce from high school per year.
 - A. \$_____
 - B. _____ X \$_____ = \$_____

(years not in school) (HS only income) (lost income)
 - C. _____ + _____ = \$_____

(cost of education) (lost income) (opportunity cost)

3. Calculate the lifetime earnings based upon the average income for working with high school only from age 18 until age 65.
 - A. _____ x \$_____ = \$_____

(total years) (annual Income) (lifetime earnings)

4. Calculate your lifetime earnings with a Bachelor's Degree from age 22 to age 65
 - A. Estimate the annual earnings based upon the average income for your tentative career with a degree. \$_____
 - B. _____ x \$_____ = \$_____

(total years) (avg annual earnings) (lifetime earnings)

5. Calculate the difference between working as a professional and working with only a high school diploma.
 - A. \$_____ - \$_____ = \$_____

(4B lifetime earnings) (3A lifetime earnings) (education gain)

Occupational Outlook Handbook
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

Explore your career options with...
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Median weekly earnings for year-round, full-time workers age 25 and older, by educational attainment, 2003

Doctoral degree	\$1,349
Professional degree	1,307
Master's degree	1,064
Bachelor's degree	900
Associate degree	672
Some college, no degree	622
High school diploma (including GED)	554
Some high school, no diploma	396