



Lesson: Exploring a World of Opportunity – Using Your Gifts & Interests in Employment	2026-27 Academic Year
Overview: Students will experience four primary career clusters through in-classroom discussion, face-to-face expo interaction, and hands-on demonstrations by regional employers.	
Essential Question(s): 1. How can a first impression impact my future? 2. What careers best utilize my strengths and interests? 3. What is the purpose of Worlds of Opportunity Expo? 4. What careers are available in Lynchburg Region in the areas Transportation, Energy/Utilities, Public Safety, Construction, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Automotive/Logistics, Engineering/Environment, Financial/ Financial Services, Retail/Customer Service, Hospitality/Tourism, Marketing/Communications, Healthcare/Medical, and Technology	
Objective(s): Students will: 1. Explore strengths and interests related to careers in the area. 2. Identify high-demand occupations in the greater Lynchburg region. 3. State the relationship between math, science, communications, and interpersonal skills with success in various occupations. 4. Create a 4-Year Plan based on a career interest inventory, Expo experiences, and class discussion.	
Conceptual Outline: I. Prepare for WOO A. Transportation B. Energy and Utilities C. Construction D. Agriculture E. Manufacturing& Automotive F. Engineering and Environment G. Public Safety H. Financial Services I. Retail/Customer Service J. Marketing &Communications K. Hospitality & Tourism L. Education M. Healthcare & Human Services N. Information Technology II. Career Expo A. October 19th & 20th B. Central Virginia Community College III. Follow up to Worlds of Opportunity Experience A. Class Discussion B. Career Interest Survey C. 4-Year Academic and Career Plan	

Materials, Equipment, and Technology Resources:

Materials:

1. Worlds of Opportunity Career Guide (print or online)
2. Worlds of Opportunity Pre-Expo PowerPoint
3. Worlds of Opportunity Career Close Up Videos
4. Career Guide Scavenger Hunt

Equipment:

1. Computer and Internet Access
2. Projector
3. Student Career Cluster Survey

Technology Resources:

1. <https://www.lynchburgregion.org/worldsofopportunity>

Procedures/Activities:

1. Teacher Preparation:
 - Review materials and prepare opening discussion about the importance of planning and the power of a first impression
 - Review and Edit PowerPoint slides for your school.
 - Instruct students how to greet professionals by making eye contact, shaking hands, and giving an appropriate greeting.
 - Students will practice in small groups then rotate.
 - Students will discuss the importance of networking
2. Worlds of Opportunity Trip: Build excitement among your students by sharing the WOO Career Close Up Videos on the WOO website, and reviewing the Career Guide by completing the provided scavenger hunt quiz and **writing their top 3 industries in the back of the Career Guide.**
3. Discuss logistics, dress code, and expectations for Worlds of Opportunity Expo trip. Review agenda and requirements with your students. Stress to students that they must use time wisely and go to the vendors in each world that interests them the most in the zone. There may not be enough time to experience every exhibit. Students should **not** bring books, phones, or backpacks to the expo. **Dress appropriately for the weather; half of the expo will be outside.**
4. Post-Worlds of Opportunity Class Discussion: Students should identify their top experiences at WOO and discuss the value of networking.
5. Post-Worlds of Opportunity Career Survey: Complete Survey following WOO event by October 23rd, 2026.
6. Post-Worlds of Opportunity Activity: Students should record a brief summary of the WOO experience (What did they enjoy the most? What Worlds did not appeal to them? What do they want to remember two years from now about the experience?). **Students can record this summary in the back of the Career Guide.**

Additional activities/projects can include creating a PowerPoint presentation, writing an essay, or creating a poster.

7. Post-Worlds of Opportunity Communications/Networking: As a class, students select one WOO exhibitor to thank and connect. Write and mail letters or thank you cards to chosen exhibitors.

Assessment:

1. Class participation
2. Career Cluster Interest Inventory Completion
3. Worlds of Opportunity attendance and engagement/completion of activities