

B2. Road Map to Success



Introduction

Students are likely to achieve long-term academic or career goals if they visualize small achievements leading to their long-term success. In this lesson, students identify their goals and develop a plan of action to achieve them.

Learning Goals

- Students will learn that they will have many small accomplishments and victories as they travel on the road to their future.
- Students will identify goals they want to achieve and explore the steps necessary to achieve them.
- Students will create a personal timeline to help them understand the steps they will need to take to achieve their ultimate objectives.

Materials Needed

- Preview Activity Handout: *Road Map to Success*
- Lesson Handouts: *Visualizing the Road Ahead and Timeline to Success*
- Reflection Activity Handout: *I Know How to Reach My Goals*

Preview Activity

This activity should be given 1-2 days prior to the in-class lesson. Explain to students that they will start a new lesson that requires them to gather information from their home or community and bring it to the classroom. (See handout.)

1. Distribute *Road Map to Success* and explain instructions to students.
2. In-Class Activity: As you begin the in-class lesson, have students share (as individuals or within small groups) what they discussed and learned in their Preview Activity.
3. You may wish to add value to the Preview Activity by collecting ideas generated and distributing them to students as a resource.

Word Wall

Visualize: To see or form a mental image of

Goal: The end toward which effort is directed

Timeline: A table listing important events for successive years within a particular historical period

Activities

PART 1: ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS (10 MINUTES)

1. Discuss and review the Preview Activity.
2. Explain to students that although they are already on the road to their future, this road has many twists and turns.
3. Take a few moments to talk about your own life and career path, with the idea that this will give your students background knowledge to help them think about their own goals. (We encourage you to create your own road map ahead of time, sharing major events and accomplishments, including graduations, travel, recognitions, births, and more.)

PART 2: VISUALIZING THE ROAD AHEAD (15 MINUTES)

1. Distribute the *Visualizing the Road Ahead* handout.
2. Have students brainstorm accomplishments along the road to their future (e.g., getting good grades, finishing middle school). Have students either draw or write these events in the signs along the road, creating a road map.
3. Give students a few minutes to complete the task and ask some students to share their road map. Encourage students to add to their list if they have new ideas. Write ideas on the board. Make sure the following ideas are discussed: finishing middle school, starting high school, taking algebra, taking college entrance exams, researching colleges, researching careers, applying to college, and graduating from college.
4. Explain to students that seeing their goals in the context of the time they have to accomplish them will enable them to plan for their futures.
5. Explain to the class the difference between short- and long-term goals.
6. Explain to students that long-term goals are made up of smaller goals. If our goal is to go to college, there are lots of smaller goals that we have to accomplish before this ultimate goal.
7. Time permitting, have students use the items on the board from the previous exercise to identify which goals are short- or long-term.

PART 3: TIMELINE TO SUCCESS (15 MINUTES)

1. Distribute the *Timeline to Success* handout and ask students to complete it.
2. Reconvene as a class and discuss the challenges students had in determining when they needed to meet their goals.
3. If you have time, construct a class timeline (see Extensions section for details).

Reflection Activity

1. Thank students for their participation in the lesson and talk about how important it is for them to share their discoveries with significant people in their lives.
2. Explain to students that this activity will allow them to share the information they explored at school with their copilot. In addition, the assignment will allow them to reflect on the topic a bit further.
3. Distribute *I Know How to Reach My Goals* and explain the instructions to students. (See handout.)

References and Resources

- <http://www.goodcharacter.com/BCBC/Goals.html>
- http://www.educationworld.com/tools_templates/index.shtml

Curriculum Standards

- Standards for the English/Language Arts: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12
- National Standards for Social Studies Teachers:
 - Culture
 - Time, Continuity and Change
 - People, Places and Environments
 - Individual Development and Identity

See Appendix 3 for complete curriculum standards descriptions.