

Lesson 10

Note to teacher:

This lesson is designed to help students explore careers related to apprenticeship programs. The lesson is intended to help students understand the trades and careers beyond those that give primary focus to formal training in a classroom setting.

Materials Needed:

Computers, and copies of the Lesson 10 Worksheet

Objectives:

1. After hearing a description about a career that requires an apprenticeship, students will participate in a critical thinking discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the career.
2. The students will identify the steps in the apprenticeship process, along with skills and requirements for apprenticeship programs.

Evaluation:

- The students will list the advantages and disadvantages (pros and cons) of the career from the vignette as a class while the teacher records the responses on the board in two columns. (Suggestion: Ask for one pro or con response from each student.)
- Each student will complete the Lesson 10 Worksheet where they will explore a specific apprenticeship.

Instruction:

1. Distribute the Lesson 10 Worksheet to the class
2. Tell the class that the career narrative for today is about a career that requires an apprenticeship. Then read the following:

The Journey to Becoming a Journeyman

Becoming an electrician requires four to five years learning on the job and in a classroom through a formal program called an apprenticeship.

The **first step** toward becoming an electrician includes acquiring as much knowledge as possible about the trade. Many electricians become interested in the occupation through friends or relatives. Monte Hall, owner and supervising electrician of All Electric in Salem decided to become an electrician because he had brothers who were electricians, and his father-in-law owned an electrical shop.

The **second step** is identifying a suitable apprenticeship program. Programs include both union and open-shop (non-union) electricians' training committees. Union programs usually last one year longer (five years) and the classroom instruction is done at the union's training facility with journeymen instructors hired by the union. Most non-union programs use the community college system to provide the classroom instruction.

The **third step** in becoming an electrician occurs through acceptance onto the waiting list, called the “pool of eligibles.” In some programs, there are “open” periods during which applications to get on the list are accepted.

By meeting the minimum requirements, an applicant may be accepted onto the list. Because applications are ranked for position on the list, applicants need to present the best application possible. When new applicants are added to the list, previous applicants may move up or down on the list as their scores compete with the new applicants’ scores. Individuals can provide additional documentation to an application during the open periods to increase their competitiveness. Wait time on the list ranges anywhere from two weeks to two years.

Beginning an apprenticeship program marks the **fourth step**. When a licensed journeyman electrician takes on an apprentice, a contract is signed and the apprentice begins the four or five year program of paid on-the-job training and classroom instruction. In the first year of an apprenticeship, an apprentice works one-on-one with a journeyman in the trade at all times. At the end of the apprenticeship program, graduates are “turned out,” the technical name for completing the training. Once they pass state licensing exams, they can work independently or for a company as an electrician.

3. Review the four main steps to becoming a journeyman electrician with the class (they should have filled in these steps on their worksheet during the narrative).
4. Ask the students what they think might be some of the “pros” and “cons” of this career, compared to previous vignettes.
5. Direct the students to the Educational Information Center (EIC) on QualityInfo, which can be located from the home page by selecting **Education** under the Data Tools options.
6. Demonstrate using the EIC by **selecting your area of the state** in step 1, then selecting **Apprenticeships** in step 2. In step 3, **type electrician into the first box**, and then select the first **Go** button.
7. Ask the students to use the EIC to complete the apprenticeship questions on their Lesson 10 Worksheet, and share the answers as a class at the conclusion of the exercise.