

# Post-Secondary Path: Apprenticeship or College?

**Objective:** Students will compare and contrast apprenticeships and college education. This lesson plan aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of apprenticeships and college education, allowing them to make informed decisions about their future careers.

## Skills Targeted:

- Critical Thinking
- Research
- Collaboration
- Public Speaking
- Composition

## Materials:

1. Whiteboard and markers or screen for casting from tablets (for presentations)
2. Handouts and/or tablets with internet access
3. Internet access for in-class research
4. Guest speakers (if available) – someone with experience in apprenticeships AND a college representative

## Introduction (15 minutes):

- Start with a brief discussion about students' career aspirations and what they know about apprenticeships and college.
- Watch [Good Morning America feature](#) (on ABC News YouTube channel) from Spring 2023 as a warm introduction to the apprenticeship vs college discussion.
- Introduce the lesson objective: understanding the differences between apprenticeships and college education.

**Activity 1: Research (30 minutes):**

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group either the topic of apprenticeships or college.
- Instruct them to research the pros and cons, entry requirements, duration, and potential career paths associated with their assigned topic.
- Encourage them to use reliable sources, such as government websites, educational institutions, and industry reports.
  - [www.Beprobeproudsc.org](http://www.Beprobeproudsc.org)
  - [www.Careeronestop.org](http://www.Careeronestop.org)
  - [www.apprenticeship.gov](http://www.apprenticeship.gov)
  - [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_sc.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_sc.htm) (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics-- SC Employment and Wages, etc)
  - [www.scholarships360.org/careers/apprenticeships/](http://www.scholarships360.org/careers/apprenticeships/) (College vs apprentice path)
  - [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/careersearch/](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/careersearch/) (Provides nat'l median salary and education info, plus projected job growth on over 900 careers)

**Activity 2: Group Presentation (45 minutes):**

- Each group presents their findings to the class. Emphasize the importance of clarity, organization, and supporting evidence.
- After each presentation, open the floor for questions and discussions.

**Activity 3: Guest Speakers (30 minutes):**

- If possible, invite guest speakers to share their experiences. A person who has gone through an apprenticeship and a college representative can both provide valuable insights.
- Allow students to ask questions and engage in a Q&A session.

**Activity 4: Venn Diagram (20 minutes):**

- Ask students to create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting apprenticeships and college.
- Encourage them to highlight key points, such as cost, duration, hands-on experience, and career outcomes.

**Discussion (15 minutes):**

- Facilitate a class discussion based on the Venn diagrams. Explore similarities and differences.
- Discuss the idea that one path is not universally better than the other, and the choice depends on individual preferences, goals, and the specific field of interest.

**Conclusion (15 minutes):**

- Summarize the main points discussed during the lesson.
- Provide resources for further exploration, such as career counseling services, apprenticeship programs, and college admissions offices.

**Suggestions for Homework/Reflection:**

- Assign a reflective essay where students express their thoughts on whether they are leaning towards an apprenticeship, college, or a combination of both based on the information gathered during the lesson.
- Assign the Be Pro Be Proud SC [Career Exploration Research Project](#) under the Resource Center tab of the [www.beprobeproudsc.org](http://www.beprobeproudsc.org) website.

*Lesson plan courtesy of:*

