

Construction

Bucks County Workforce Investment Board

Overview

Construction is a booming business that provides plenty of entry level positions as well as tremendous benefits and salaries. Join employees from Joseph Jingoli and Sons, Dutton Construction and Ransom Cat as they explain why they love construction!

Discussion/Questions

1. Construction is a fantastic business that offers entry level positions right out of high school with hands-on training. One employee said that a high school graduate could start off by earning \$90,000 a year! Why do you think this industry offers such convenient entry as well as generous salaries?
2. In small groups, discuss the construction currently going on in your area. Is there a great deal of it? What types of construction are the most common, residential or business? What do you think is or is not attracting these types of construction to your area? Do you see construction in your area increasing or decreasing within the next few years? Why or why not?
3. Working as a team is not always easy because it entails relying on others to do their part of the job well and in a timely manner. Discuss some of the issues that construction/trade workers might face on-site. Name some ways that these issues can be dealt with in a respectful manner. What are some general characteristics that must be exhibited between the employees on-site, and really in any work environment, in order to ensure that the job gets done and that the dynamics of the team are not affected.

Activities

1. Construction is absolutely a team effort. From the surveyor to the person who adds the last touch of paint, there are so many people involved creating the buildings and homes we see all around us. In small groups, determine all of the people in various positions that are needed to construct a home. Next to each of their titles, list their responsibilities in this construction. Design a chart to creatively and effectively present your information. Which position attracts you the most and why?
2. There are so many opportunities available in construction. Use a local newspaper as well as the Internet or other career seeking guides to determine which positions in construction are hiring right now near you. What experience or skills are needed? Are there any education requirements? What are the starting benefits and salaries offered?
3. Get Started! As we saw in the segment, there is no better training than hands-on experience. Contact a local construction/trade company. Find out if they offer apprenticeships or job shadowing opportunities. What are the prerequisites? How many hours of week does it require? Is there any compensation? Analyze your options and get started. Keep track of your daily thoughts and activities during this training in a journal or notebook to later share with your classmates.

Academic Standards

13.1.11.C. Analyze how the changing roles of individuals in the workplace relate to new opportunities within career choices.

13.1.11.D. Evaluate school-based opportunities for career awareness/preparation, such as, but not limited to: Community service, Graduation/senior project, Internship, Job shadowing, Part-time employment, Registered apprenticeship

13.1.11.F. Analyze the relationship between career choices and career preparation opportunities, such as, but not limited to: Associate degree, Baccalaureate degree, Certificate/licensure, Entrepreneurship, Immediate part/full time employment, Industry training, Military training, Professional degree, Registered apprenticeship, Tech Prep, Vocational rehabilitation centers

13.2.11.B. Apply research skills in searching for a job. CareerLinks, Internet (i.e. O*NET), Networking, Newspapers, Professional associations, Resource books (that is *Occupational Outlook Handbook, PA Career Guide*)

13.3.11.B. Evaluate team member roles to describe and illustrate active listening techniques: Clarifying, Encouraging, Reflecting, Restating Summarizing

13.3.11.C. Evaluate conflict resolution skills as they relate to the workplace: Constructive criticism, Group dynamics, Managing/leadership, Mediation, Negotiation, Problem solving

1.6.11. Participate in small and large group discussions and presentations.

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