

Plastics

North West Workforce Investment Board

Overview

Join us in this episode of *Career Gates* as we take a closer look at the plastics industry. The manufacturing of plastics plays an integral part in everyday life through the various products that are created from this valuable material. Gain insight from employees of Multi-Plastics, SIPCO, Multi-Tool and C&J Engineers to determine if this could be the career for you.

Discussion/Questions

1. Take a look around your home or classroom. Name the different parts or products that are made from plastic. What does this tell you about the future of this industry as well as the current demand for it?
2. Discuss the impact of the plastics industry on other industries and/or specific businesses. How do they work together to increase their products and ultimately, productivity?
3. There were a number of characteristics that were mentioned that pertained especially to a career such as this that involves the precise production of so many different products. Name some of those characteristics and explain why you feel each would be important to one's success in this industry.

Activities

1. One of the employers mentioned that this industry could be a great option for those who come out of high school and aren't sure if college is the right fit for them. They provide on-site training to prepare you for a career while getting paid! Find out if there are companies within this industry in your area that offer opportunities like this. What do you need to get started? For what types of work would you be eligible to be trained? What are the pay rates and the hours? If this sounds like a good career option for you, create a plan from now until you get out of high school. Include the different classes and possible training or apprenticeship opportunities you may be able to participate in now.
2. If you entered this field without much experience, you would need to be sure you not only prepared a good resume highlighting your best qualities, but you would also want to be sure that you presented yourself extremely well during the interview. Pair up with your classmates and conduct interviews for an entry level position in this industry. Before starting the interviews, each of you should prepare several important questions pertaining to work habits, personal characteristics, education and experience to be asked during the interview. Be sure to give each other constructive criticism at the end of each interview.
3. To help you secure a position in any career, letters of recommendation from reputable sources are a great tool. Make a list of the people in your life that you have had experience with whether it was through work, volunteering, school, or extracurricular activities. Choose two or three of these people that you have had a good relationship with and to whom you have demonstrated some key characteristics of yourself. Politely ask them if they would be willing to write you a general recommendation letter for an entry level position. Keep these documents for your portfolio. Be sure to write them a thank you letter.

Academic Standards

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

13.1.11.H. Review personal high school plan against current personal career goals and select postsecondary opportunities based upon personal career interests.

13.2.11.A. Apply effective speaking and listening skills used in a job interview.

13.2.11.C. Develop and assemble, for career portfolio placement, career acquisition documents, such as, but not limited to: Job application, Letter of appreciation following an interview, Letter of introduction, Postsecondary education/training applications, Request for letter of recommendation, Resume

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