



Learning Target: At the end of this activity, students will be able to explain how networking can help them get a job that matches their skills and interests.

Work-Based Learning: Workplace Readiness Training, Job Exploration Counseling, Work-Based

Time Recommended: 60 Minutes

TransitionTN Additional Resources for Instructors

[Networking 101](#)

[Career Fair Tip Sheet](#)

[Researching a Business](#)

[Preparing Students for Career Speakers](#)

[Career Awareness 101](#)

[Exploring Skills Needed for Desired Jobs](#)

[Preparing Students for Success](#)

Other Resources for Instructions

[Network Basics](#)

[How to Network for a Job \(Why It's Important and 7 Tips\)](#)

[5 Tactics to Help Students Embrace Networking and Relationship Building](#)

[IRIS Center – Creating a Network of Supports](#)

[Support Networks and How Students with Disabilities Can Benefit from Them](#)

[The Importance of Career Networking](#)

Materials and Preparation

- Computers or tablets if completing activity with technology
- Printed resources as needed (fact sheet, activity cards, recording form, etc.)



Providing Accommodations

- Arrange accommodations for students who have fine motor skill needs such as using a computer mouse.
 - For example, instead of operating a computer mouse, have students point to the screen while someone else clicks the options
- Use a peer to help guide students through the activities
- Read the content out loud to the students
- Allow students to use audio recordings
- Provide a scribe or someone to type the answers for the student as they verbally answer the questions
- Download and print the form for students who do not have access to a computer
- If applicable, meet with the teacher to ensure any new vocabulary is entered into the students' Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices
- In the school-based activity, you can have students complete one, multiple, or all examples.

Vocabulary Review

- Review the suggested vocabulary using the online vocabulary review or [print out course vocabulary flashcards](#).

Think About

- What information can you learn about careers and jobs by networking?
- Who do you currently have in your professional network that can help you learn about careers?
- Who do you currently have in your personal network that can connect you to a person that can help you learn about careers?
- How can networking help you with choosing a career that matches your skills and interests?

Play the Game

- Instruct students to play the game found on the [Get Involved](#) page
- Students can play the game independently, work in small groups, or play as a class



School-Based Activity

Discuss: Instruct students to read through the fact sheet independently, with a partner, or as a group. After reviewing the fact sheet, use the Think About questions to prompt discussion about how networking can help in finding a job that they are interested in and matches their skills.

Explain: Emphasize that everyone has a group of people that make up their network. These people fall into two categories, those in their personal and professional network. People in a student's personal network can help them connect with individuals who share similar interests. People in a student's professional network can help them find a job in their career field. A person's network can support them as they work towards finding employment. Networking can help a student learn more about jobs and careers. It can also help them decide which jobs they are interested in.

In this activity, students will:

- Download or print the [Personal Versus Professional Network Activity Form](#)
- Read each scenario
- Identify if the person in the scenario would be a member of a personal or professional network.

Community-Based Extension

After students have completed the school-based activity, they can begin to identify individuals to add to their network. Students will need to download the Recording Form for this activity. Students will identify three individuals they would like to connect with to learn more about their jobs. The students can reach out to the individual in-person, through email, or a phone call. Students will meet to discuss the individual's experiences in networking. After completing the form, have the student answer the reflection questions and decide if they should add the individuals to their networks.