LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA Economics for Success®

▶ Work and Career Readiness ▶ Financial Literacy



JA Economics for Success introduces middle school students (ages 11–14) to initial work and career readiness and personal finance concepts while developing transferrable skills. They learn business and economic concepts; explore career interests and opportunities; and develop work-readiness skills through the lens of their own values, skills, and interests.

This learning experience is part of the JA Work and Career Readiness Pathway and the JA Financial Literacy Pathway and is designed for grades 6–8. The learning experience is primarily volunteer-led with educator support.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVES

After participating in the learning experience, students will be able to:

- Develop an awareness of their individual preferences toward work and financial goals.
- Associate current values, skills, and interests with future success in a dynamic and changing workforce.
- Think critically to connect today's financial choices with their future in the digital economy.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- JA kit with digital options, educator- and volunteer-led
- Curriculum delivery in-person (face-to-face in the classroom) or virtually (online in a remote classroom)
- Ten 45–60 minute sessions:
  4 sessions focusing on Work and Career Readiness concepts;
  4 sessions focusing on Financial Literacy concepts; and
  2 crossover sessions addressing Work and Career Readiness concepts, Financial Literacy concepts, or both
- Choice of implementing any 6 or more sessions, in any order
- Extended learning opportunities and Home-to-School Connections included
- Optional, culminating project-based activity for students to demonstrate their understanding of the learning experience concepts by producing a learning artifact.

Junior Achievement™

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CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Work and Career Readiness

My Career Exploration introduces career clusters, and students identify the clusters they find interesting. They learn that early career planning results in more choices and opportunities for success in a career that matches their values, skills, and interests.

Getting to Know Me enables students to better understand their own values, skills, interests, and future choices. They use their self-knowledge to develop a word-based personal brand.

My Career Goals provides students an opportunity to practice setting short-term goals that build to a long-term goal. They learn the value of self control, determination, and flexibility in achieving their goals.

My Transferable Skills helps students recognize that skills learned now will be useful in both their future personal lives and careers. They learn about the digital skills needed to work remotely.

Financial Literacy and/or Work and Career Readiness crossover

My Income and Expenses teaches the importance of planning for future work with an eye toward earning enough income to pay for deductions, expenses, and savings. Students learn how to read a paycheck stub and explore the Pay Yourself First strategy. They also practice solving income- and expense-related problems with positive solutions.

Planning for My Future Income explores the role work plays in living independently. Students gain financial knowledge about the costs of living independently. They consider the role of career choices and the costs of goods and services.

The **Be a Success Game** shows how education and work choices impact income, housing, family life, travel, and job security over a lifetime. Success is a combination of motivation, planning, and learning to handle various life events.

Financial Literacy

Managing My Money helps students recognize the importance of managing money. They learn how to keep a budget and make decisions about spending.

Paying for My Wants and Needs enables students to make wise choices related to credit. They learn about different ways of paying for goods and services, and the advantages and drawbacks of each.

My Credit and Spending prepares students to use credit. They learn about healthy spending habits and the importance of building a good credit score.

My Ride on the Financial Roller Coaster helps students understand risk and methods for handling it, as well as the role of personal responsibility. They make decisions about scenarios involving risk.

Project (optional)

My Future Time Capsule is a self-guided project that allows students to apply learning experience concepts to their own lives through additional research, culminating in an artifact of learning.

The project includes elements of each of the 10 learning experience sessions and is designed to be personalized based on which sessions are implemented.

Visit https://connect.ja.org/, JA Connect® Resource Guide https://data.ja.org/s/CQkAAA, and https://career.ja.org/ for additional resources.