

Chapter 5: Navigating the Teaching Profession

Teaching Unfiltered: The Rewards and Realities of the Teaching Profession

Lesson Overview	Key 21 st Century Skills
In this lesson, students will gain first-hand insights into the teaching profession by interviewing a teacher about their experiences. Through this activity, students will explore the rewards and challenges of being a teacher, fostering empathy and a deeper understanding of the profession. After the interviews, students will reflect on their findings and discuss how these insights shape their perception of teaching.	• collaboration • communication • critical thinking • empathy • reflection

Standard(s):

2.2: Students will explore the roles, responsibilities, and characteristics of effective teachers.

3.2: Students will cultivate skills in reflective practice, recognizing its importance in professional growth and development, and apply those skills to continuous improvement.

9.1: Students will critically analyze the positive and negative aspects of the teaching profession.

Objective(s):

- Students will interview a teacher to learn about the rewards and challenges of the profession and reflect on how these experiences influence their understanding of teaching.

Essential Question(s):

- What are the key rewards and challenges of being a teacher, and how do they shape the teaching profession?

Time:

120+ minutes (15-20 minutes for brainstorming questions, time for teacher interviews, 30 minutes in class for discussion, and then time outside of class to work on the recruitment campaign)

Instructor Note(s):

Note that you may need to connect with your school/district's IT department, prior to the lesson, to ensure access to digital sites and platforms is not blocked.

Activities:

1. Begin by showing the video clip, *Life without Teachers*.
2. Follow with a class discussion:

What do you think are the most rewarding and challenging aspects of being a teacher?
As a group, brainstorm potential questions for the interview. Examples may include:

- What inspired you to become a teacher?
- What do you find most rewarding about your job?

- What challenges do you face daily or throughout the school year?
- How do you manage work-life balance as a teacher?
- What advice would you give to someone considering teaching as a career?

Have students finalize a list of five to seven thoughtful questions they will ask during their interviews.

3. Arrange for students to interview a teacher (individually or in pairs) during a scheduled time or assign students to interview a teacher outside of class. Ensure students approach the interview professionally and respectfully.

Students will take notes or record the interview (with permission) to accurately capture the teachers' responses.

4. Reconvene as a class to share insights from the interviews. Discuss patterns and unique perspectives students observed.

Pose questions such as:

- What surprised you most about the teachers' responses?
- What did you learn about the rewards and challenges of teaching that you didn't know before?
- Did the interview change your perception of the teaching profession? Why or why not?
- What rewards were mentioned most often?
- What strategies do teachers use to handle challenges?
- How do you think these rewards and challenges impact their role as educators?

Materials:

- Projector or Smart Board/Promethean Panel
- Video Clip:
Life Without Teachers (4:43)
- Interview questions
- Journals or digital devices for notetaking
- Poster materials (optional)

Assessment(s):

- Teacher Recruitment Campaign:

Individually or in pairs, students will design a campaign (poster, video, or social media post) to recruit future teachers. The campaign must:

- Highlight both the rewards and challenges of teaching
- Include quotes, visuals, and persuasive messaging