



Lesson Plan:

I Have a Purpose

General Information

Grade Level:	8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grade
Focus Area:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Career Development & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> College Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Culture
<p>Overview of the lesson:</p> <p><i>This lesson will introduce Native American students to the stages of career planning utilizing the CollegeBound Journey's™ Career Path model. Additionally, the concept of cultural Purpose will be introduced, and students will have an opportunity to apply the concept to their own self and communities.</i></p>	

Targets & Outcomes

ASCA Student Standards Targeted:

Mindsets & Behaviors

- M 4. Self-confidence in ability to succeed
- B-LS 1. Critical thinking skills to make informed decisions
- B-LS 2. Creative approach to learning, tasks and problem solving
- B-SMS 1. Responsibility for self and actions
- B-SS 2. Positive, respectful and supportive relationships with students who are similar to and different from them
- B-SS 3. Positive relationships with adults to support success
- B-SS 10. Cultural awareness, sensitivity and responsiveness

Social and Emotional Learning Competencies Targeted:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Relationship/Awareness
- Relationship Skills/Management
- Responsible Decision-Making

Student Learning Objectives:

Student(s) will:

- Identify the four stages of career planning in a cultural context.
- Define cultural identity as it relates to the individual.
- Correlate cultural identity to self.

- Define Purpose in a cultural context and provide examples with a cultural setting.
- Review cultural affirmations and choose one(s) that resonate to the individual.

Materials:

- Handout: **Career Path Model**
- Handout: **Mourning Dove (Salish) Quote on Purpose**
- Computer/projector, Smartboard, or other technology to show group an online video
- Online video: [Lakota in America](#)
- Handout: [The 50 Most Inspiring 'Dear Native Youth' Tweets](#) from ICT (See Additional Resource section for more information)
- Optional: Handout: **Encouraging Words in Ojibwe, Encouraging Words in Dakota** from [Upper Midwest American Indian Center \(UMAIC\)](#) or similar handout in other language(s) for the students in the group
- Optional: Popcorn or other snack for eating while watching video

Lesson Delivery:

<p>Pre-Delivery Preparation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research encouraging words in the tribal language of the students, if the students do not identify as Ojibwe or Dakota. Consider creating a handout or poster for the students using these words/phrases. ● Understand the basic concept of an Indigenous Medicine Wheel by accessing the Additional Resources section or consulting with a cultural knowledge keeper/teacher.
<p>Introduction:</p>	<p>We are here today to start planning our life’s journey in terms of career planning.</p> <p>(Provide students the Career Path Model handout) Let’s start by viewing this handout. Does the symbol in the middle remind anyone or something? (Allow a few moments for the students to respond). Most journeys are supported by a map or directions. For many Native people, the Medicine Wheel directs our path. Our map for this journey is called Career Path, which is modeled after the Medicine Wheel.</p> <p>Through our time together, we are going on a journey through four directions: My Identity, My Gifts, My Vision, and My Path.</p> <p>Today we are starting with the My Identity direction. What does the word identity mean to you? (Allow a few moments for the students to respond). Here is a definition that I found online on cultural identity: <i>Your cultural identity is a critical piece of your personal identity (and</i></p>

	<p><i>worldview) that develops as you absorb, interpret, and adopt (or reject) the beliefs, values, behaviors, and norms of the communities in your life (Exceptional Futures, 2023). What are some elements that you can connect to your own cultural identity? (Allow a few moments for the students to respond; here are a few examples: community is important; sharing; supporting, food is medicine, Elders are important; teachings, mutualism).</i></p> <p>One Native concept that we are going to consider today is called Purpose. We are going to begin to discover our Purpose. Allow me to share this quote to you by Mourning Dove (Salish)...(use the handout to read the quote to the students). What does this quote mean to you that you would like to share with the group? ... We are going to use this time together to understand our Purpose. We will use tools and resources to help us to begin to discover that Purpose.</p>
<p>Teach Content:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Video <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read this statement to the students: Community is very important to Native people. Community can mean immediate family, extended family, neighborhoods, reservations, and nations. Your community supports you to understand your Purpose and return that gift to the community. Let’s learn more about this by watching this video. b. Ask the students, as they watch the video, to identify what the Cheyenne River people need for their people’s future? c. Show students the Lakota in America video. d. Ask the students what they thought about the video or what spoke to their hearts or spirits? e. Ask the students what do the Cheyenne River people need for their people’s future? <i>Answers may include the people needing the youth to become cultural helpers, leaders, models, and teachers.</i> f. Ask the students, What do you think Genevieve Iron Lightning’s Purpose is? 2. Understanding Purpose <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read this statement to the students: You, too, have a Purpose. It is not just about a career or job. Instead, your Purpose is to support your community, whether that is your family community, or tribal people through your gifts and talents. You have so many people, including your ancestors, who are cheering you on to discover your Purpose, which will help to sustain, build, and empower your community. It is ok not to know what your Purpose is right now. We are going to use our time together to

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	<p>discover your Purpose, but for now just know that you are a Purpose. All things created have a Purpose, and that includes you. When you forget this, you will struggle.</p> <p>b. Pass out the <i>The 50 Most Inspiring 'Dear Native Youth' Tweets</i> to the students.</p> <p>c. Ask students to read through a few tweets and find one to share with the group.</p> <p>d. Allow time for students to share and reflect with one another.</p> <p>e. Optional: Pass out Encouraging Words in Ojibwe, Encouraging Words in Dakota or other handout/poster you created for the students.</p>
Summarize/Close:	<p>Ask student(s) to take a moment and reflect on today's activity silently. After a few moments, ask the student(s) the following reflection questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is one takeaway you have learned today? 2. How was Native American culture valued (or emphasized, included) today's activity?

Additional Resources

<i>Upper Midwest American Indian Center (UMAIC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The organization is dedicated to supporting American Indian people from all tribes in connecting with each other, gaining educational and economic advancement, and practicing their American Indian culture. ● Access additional educational resources here.
<i>Indian Country Today (ICT)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ICT is an independent, nonprofit news enterprise that covers Indigenous peoples.
<i>Medicine Wheel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Native Voices Medicine Ways: Traditional Healers and Healing ● Tribal Trade The Indigenous Medicine Wheel (NATIVE Medicine Wheel EXPLAINED!) ● Powwow Times Medicine Wheel Native American Teachings Explained?
<i>Exceptional Connections</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Cultural Identity and Why is it Important?
<i>White Bison</i>	<p>This company produces a curriculum called, Understanding the Purpose of Life, which contains cultural affirmations.</p>
<i>We R Native</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We R Native: Native Crisis Text Line ● We R Native: Caring Messages (Text campaign)

Notes for future delivery or research:

