

GLE3OR Unit 3: Exploration of Opportunities

Activity 3: Learning Opportunities

Overview

In this activity, you will become familiar with the "Inquiry Model" for researching and decision-making. You will apply this model as you research learning opportunities in your school and community.

Lesson

Before we look at the Inquiry Model, consider these important questions:

1. *What opportunities exist in high school and my community that allow me to develop and explore my interests and skills?*
2. *What opportunities will permit me to give something back to my community?*



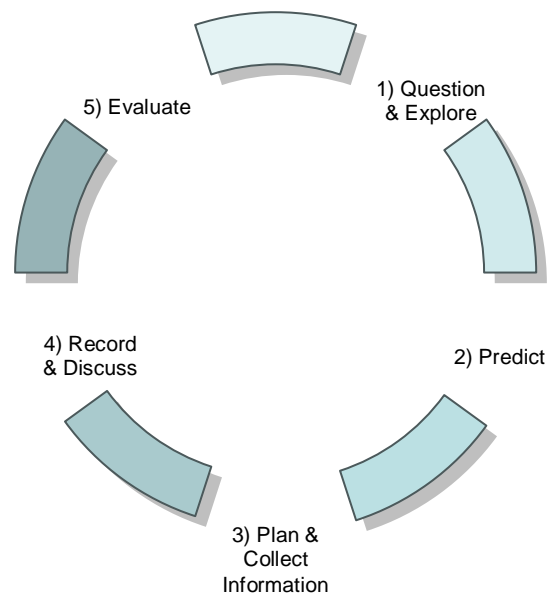
Inquiry Model – Looking for Information

Believe it or not, we conduct research everyday in an attempt to find information that is important to our lives.

Consider this example. Your community centre is going to start up a special interest class and you would like to join yourself or enrol your child. You will want to find the answers to some of these questions:

- How do you find out what days the class will take place?
- What time does it start?
- How much does it cost?
- Where do you enrol?

When finding more about a particular topic, we constantly ask ourselves questions like the ones above. By using the Inquiry Model (pictured right), we are able to find the answers.



Applying the Inquiry Model

1. Question and Explore

What am I investigating? What are my possibilities and opportunities?

- Special Interest classes at my community center. Is there more than one type of class offered and at what times?

2. Predict

What possibilities should I consider? What areas will allow my interest to be expressed?

- If more than one class is offered, which will I choose? I can narrow down my choices by matching them to my interests.

3. Plan and Collect Information

Gather and record information and discoveries.

- Phoning or visiting the community center, checking for information online, or talking to a friend or neighbor.

4. Record and Discuss

Record and Discuss your final choices. Present your final ideas.

- Make a list of final decisions
- Talk about your possible choices over with others
- Make your final decision and enroll in the class of your choice!



5. Evaluate

What did I learn and how did I learn it. What are my next steps?

- I learned how to find out about classes at my community centre
- I learned I can research on my own
- I will find out what other community centres are offering
- I will find out what clubs are offered at school

Information about learning opportunities is available, but you may have to do a little work to find it. The **inquiry model** is one tool that will help you with this research.

The inquiry model is very useful when researching work-related opportunities such as part-time or summer jobs. Furthermore, you may find other opportunities available to you, such as volunteer work, educational, extra-curricular, and entrepreneurial activities.

Opportunities in High School



Co-operative Education allows you to "test-drive" an occupation without making a lifetime commitment to it.

Co-op Education is the most common link to exploring careers that most students in high school are familiar with. The majority knows that one can earn high school credits and get practical experience at the same time. You are able to get a taste of an occupation and discover the realities of its workplace environment. Even if you don't like the placement, you still earn credits toward your diploma and take away the knowledge that you will be looking elsewhere for a new occupational pathway.

You might also want to consider a program like **OYAP** that allows you to put the hours that you have worked in your placement toward the hours required for your apprenticeship papers.

Although co-op seems to be the most obvious solution, there are a host of other opportunities available to you. It is only a matter of taking the time to familiarize yourself with these different options and discovering the rewards of accessing them.

What are Extracurriculars?

Extracurricular programs include sports teams as well many other groups and clubs. These can be offered in your high school or within your community. There are so many opportunities available that no matter where your interests lie, there is a club or group suited to you.

Why participate in Extracurricular Activities?

- Participating in extracurricular activities is a valuable part of the overall high school experience, creating a sense of belonging.
- Extracurriculars provide an opportunity to meet new friends with similar interests to yours.
- Clubs and teams provide valuable life lessons such as teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, self-confidence, and responsibility.
- Participation in extracurricular activities is often a predictor of later success - in college, a career and becoming a contributing member of society.
- Extracurriculars keep you actively involved in life and are a great way to burn stress. People who are involved and engaged are less likely to become addicted to destructive habits like smoking or drinking, pill popping, gambling, street hustling and sippin on gin and juice.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer work can often be found in areas where paid positions do not exist. Hospitals, animal shelters, and community groups often welcome volunteers. Volunteer placements may involve a short work experience or a group service project. While volunteering you will learn a great deal and you may be able to use the experience towards your required community service work hours.

Why volunteer?

The Ontario March of Dimes outlines some of the many reasons why so many Canadians volunteer their time and skills to help others:

- To feel needed and valued
- To share expertise and to keep skills current
- For a change of pace, a new activity, or to keep busy
- To get to know your community or neighborhood
- To gain leadership skills
- To earn academic credit
- To develop or enhance current skills
- To broaden your individual network
- To discover your potential while building on your abilities
- To make new friends
- To build your resume
- To receive support and constructive feedback on your performance
- To enjoy giving of yourself



Assignment

1. Identify and describe the 5 steps of the inquiry model using examples.
2. Describe 2 career-learning opportunities offered in high school.
3. What are extracurriculars? Do you participate in any? Are there any that interest you?
4. Why is volunteering important? Provide 5 reasons why Canadians volunteer.
5. Would you ever volunteer somewhere? Explain.