

# Defining Success

**12** Recommended  
12th Grade

 Length  
80 Minutes

## About This Lesson

To help inform education and career/life choices students will participate in a guided class discussion on the topic of how to define success, explore what success means to them in various aspects of life, and understand how to use curiosity to support their road to success.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- understand what it means to feel challenged, satisfied, and successful in a career
- explore what success means to them in various aspects of life, including their personal life, school, and career
- explore ways they can make a difference and achieve success in a career that interests them
- investigate how to use curiosity to support their road to success

## Driving Question

What does a successful future mean to me?

## Future-Ready Skills

Communication

Evaluating

Reflecting

## Lesson Breakdown

30  
minutes

### Activity 1 - Ideas of Success

In this activity, students will participate in a guided class discussion on the topic of how to define success, which will remind students that feeling accomplished entails a lot more than monetary rewards or landing their dream job.

25  
minutes

### Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Defining Success

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled **Defining Success**, which will get them to explore what success means to them in various aspects of life, including their personal life, school, and career.

25  
minutes

### Activity 3 - Fueled by Curiosity

In this activity, students will explore the success trait: curiosity to help them understand how to use curiosity to support their road to success.

### Xello Entry Point

Before starting this lesson students must save at least 3 careers. It's also recommended that they complete all three phases of **Matchmaker** and complete Xello's lesson titled **Explore Career Matches**.

### Vocabulary

- Motivation
- Career goals
- Personal goals
- School goals
- Success traits
- Determination
- Passion
- Empathy
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Cooperation

# Activity 1 - Idea of Success



Recommended  
12th Grade



Length  
30 Minutes

## Inquiry Prompts

- What does it mean to have a passion for something or have a passion project?
- What is the difference between something you're passionate about and something you're curious about?
- What do you need in a career so you feel challenged, satisfied, and successful?
- Can I be successful if I don't have a singular driving passion?

## Instructions

In this activity, students will participate in a guided class discussion on the topic of how to define success, which will remind students that feeling accomplished entails a lot more than monetary rewards or landing their dream job.

- 1 Establish a forum for a guided class discussion, whether online or face-to-face this discussion will work best in a synchronous learning environment where students are engaging in learning at the same time (ex. live chat, video conference, or in class).
- 2 To ensure all students participate, have your class list on hand so you can track who has shared and if needed you can call upon students with follow-up questions to get them engaged.
- 3 PART 1: Begin the discussion by asking your students: *What does it mean to have a passion for something or have a passion project?*  
Follow-up questions:
  - *What does it feel like to follow your passion?*
  - *What motivates you to follow a passion?* - If it's not suggested by a student, you can identify "curiosity" as a motivator.
- 4 PART 2: *What is the difference between something you're passionate about and something you're curious about?*  
Follow up questions:
  - *Which, pursuing a passion or exploring a curiosity, makes you feel excited and accomplished? Why do you think that?*
  - *Do you need a passion to have a successful career?*
  - *Do you need curiosity to have a successful career?*
- 5 PART 3: *What do you need in a career so you feel challenged, satisfied, and successful?*  
Follow up questions:
  - *Why should you feel challenged in your career?*
  - *What do you need to feel motivated and rewarded in your career?* - If no suggestions are given, ask students to think about what motivates them at school or extra curriculars
  - *What career goals would you be proud to accomplish?*

## Materials Required

- A synchronous learning environment where students can engage in a live discussion

## Artifacts

Students will complete a post-discussion reflection to express their ideas of success.

Continued on next page

## Activity 1 - Idea of Success

12

Recommended  
12th Grade



Length  
30 Minutes

- 
- 6 WRAP UP: Provide the 3 main discussion questions to your students to have them write or audio record an individual post-discussion reflection. Recording their ideas now will help them to complete part 2 in Xello's **Defining Success** lesson.

## Activity 3 - Fueled by Curiosity



Recommended  
12th Grade



Length  
20 Minutes

### Inquiry Prompts

- How can curiosity help you succeed in various aspects of your life?
- What challenges could curiosity help you overcome?
- How can curiosity support your personal road to success?

### Instructions

In this activity, students will explore the success trait: curiosity to help them understand how to use curiosity to support their road to success. Provide the following instructions to your students:

Not all of us have a singular driving force that is clearly directing us towards our destined future, and that's ok. You might have many interests that could lead you down different pathways to success. Instead of driving yourself crazy searching for that perfect career path that is supposedly meant for you, ease off the pressure by exploring your curiosities, which will lead you down pathways that you are in control of choosing. When passion feels so out of reach, curiosity can be a calming diversion.

The best-selling author Elizabeth Gilbert, famous for her novel *Eat, Pray, Love* has said,

“Follow your curiosity. It might lead you to your passion or it might not. You might get nothing out of it at all except a beautiful, long life where all you did was follow your gorgeous curiosity. And that should be enough too.”

- 1 Review your list of interests on your Xello **About Me** page. Do you have any new curiosities you're exploring that you could add to your list? Add at least one curiosity to your **Interests** section.
- 2 What aspect of your life (work, volunteer, education, or personal) does this curiosity relate to? How are you exploring it further? Add an experience to your Xello **Experiences Timeline** and make sure to reflect on:
  - **What I liked:** What have you liked about exploring this curiosity?
  - **What I found challenging:** How has your exploration of this curiosity helped you overcome a challenge?
  - **What I learned:** What have you learned through your exploration of this curiosity? Where has it led you?

### Materials Required

- Computer or tablet with internet access

### Artifacts

Students will add a curiosity they are exploring to their Interests section on their Xello profile and reflect on the ways exploring a curiosity can support their road to success.