**Connect with Others: Build Your Network**

**Grade Levels**

* Grade 9/10
* Grade 11/12

**Prerequisite**

Completion of Know Yourself Learning Center and Connect with Others: Career Talk

**Timing**

35 minutes

**Objectives**

Students will put together a Network Map of potential contacts. They will identify at least one person from their network to interview in a future activity (9th – 12th only). This network might include family, friends, neighbors, teachers, and casual acquaintances, all of whom have contacts within their own networks. Building a Network Map is the first step in building career relationships.

**Standards**

Writing styles are not mutually exclusive. In other words, an informative or opinion piece may have narrative elements within it to make the story more interesting or relatable to readers. As students move through their education and begin to focus more on informative and argument writing, they should be able to incorporate some of their story-telling abilities. An informative paper full of lists of facts and statistics is much more engaging when the writer is able to relate that information in a narrative way.

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| **Grade 9/10** | **[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3:](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/9-10/3/)**Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. |
| **Grade 11/12** | **[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.3:](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/9-10/3/)**Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. |

**Background**

*“The richest people in the world look for and build networks, everyone else looks for work.”* – Robert T. Kiyosaki. Building relationships is the catalyst for success. People are the most important source of information, guidance, and support. Students who build a network of relationships and engage in purposeful conversations will reveal new ideas, opportunities, and possibilities. Students should never be afraid to ask people in their network for help, and they should not look at a network as a means for asking for a job. They can look at a network as an opportunity to ask the people in their network for possible leads — other people they know that a student might be able add to their network — and any advice or other information the student seeks. The purpose of networking is two-fold: (1) to connect with others to have conversations and (2) to build relationships that can lead to Informational Interviews that allow students to make informed choices about careers and an enriching career direction.

**Materials**

* Career Catalyst URL: www.green360careercatalyst.net
* Internet access and laptop or computer for each student
* Login credentials (student email and password) to access Career Catalyst
* Network Map template
* Printer access for each student
* Student Handout — Connect with Others: Build Your Network (9th Grade Human Bingo)

**Essential Question**

*Who will help me along my career path?*

**Anticipatory Set** | *10 minutes*

Class discussion: On the board, write the discussion question: *How are social media and networking connected?* List some social networking sites (old and new) the students are familiar with (e.g., Snapchat, Instagram, Periscope, Meerkat, Twitter, Messenger, LinkedIn).

**9th Grade Instructions** | *20 minutes*

1. Have the students complete the Human Bingo game.
2. Group the students as you see fit and ask them to do a reflection on what they found out about their classmates. E.G. what did they learn that they didn't know before?

**10th – 12th Grade Instructions** | *20 minutes*

Educator dialogue: *“A Network Map is a diagram of potential contacts that illustrates how everyone you know may know someone who can help you. A Network Map includes family, friends, mentors, educators, and acquaintances. These contacts may lead to knowing someone else who can provide you with an opportunity.”* Have the students complete the following tasks detailed in the Career Catalyst:

1. Open the Career Catalyst and select the Connect with Others tab.
2. Download and/or print the Build Your Network Map template.
3. Open the Network Map template.
4. In the grey circle, have the students enter their name.
5. In the green squares, have the students add the names of four people the student knows (e.g., friends, family, neighbors, classmates, educators). These are Level 1 Contacts who could give the student information about career choice and/or names of people to talk to.
6. Then ask them to share (think-pair-share) with a classmate.
7. In the blue squares, add the names of people who may be Level 2 Contacts. Example: A neighbor knows a church member whose brother works for the Parks Department.
8. Then ask them to share (think-share-pair) with a classmate.
9. 10th and 11th/12th only: In the yellow squares, have the students add people who may be Informational Interview candidates (Level 3 Contacts)
10. Have students turn in their Network Map.
11. Remind students to complete their Journal Reflection in Building Your Network in the Career Catalyst.

**Review and Closure** | *5 minutes*

Many resources are available to help a student start networking. The key to building a network starts with identifying personal interests, strengths, and skills and using those to seek people with similar or identical interests and skills. For example, students whose top interest match is social might seek connections to people in outreach or community care programs.

**Independent Practice**

10th/12th Students can reflect on their own social media connections. Ask students to write at least two problems and two benefits of using social media to stay connected to others.

**Next Step**

Connect with Others: Informational Interview

**Student Handout**

**Connect with Others: Build Your Network**

**9th Grade: Human Bingo**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Complete all the spaces by networking with your peers and writing their name in a box that matches their profile. You may use a peer *only once* to complete a box.**

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| I am*Enterprising***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | My hobby is*Reading***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I like*To play sports***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I can**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I am*Artistic***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| I am*Investigative***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I can *Sing/dance***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I am**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | My hobby is*Computers***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I like*Science***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| My hobby is*Politics***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I like **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I can*Express myself***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I am*Social***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I can*Lead others***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| I like*Puzzles* **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I am *Realistic* **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I can*Work with others***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I am*Creative***Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | My hobby is**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |