

Automotive Repair Careers

[[YELLOW BAR (DESCRIPTION OF SESSION)]]

Explorers will be introduced to a range of career opportunities within the automotive repair industry.

CATEGORY

- Auto Technology

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe at least four specialty areas of the automotive repair industry.

SUPPLIES

- Activity 1
 - **Impossible Choices** activity sheet for each Explorer
 - Pen or pencil for each Explorer
- Activity 2
 - None; however, local consultants or experts in the fields of automotive repair will need to be invited to participate. Consider choosing from the following list or identifying others in your local area:
 - General technician
 - Transmission specialist
 - Diagnostic technician
 - Auto body estimator
 - Auto insurance adjuster
 - Body repair specialist
 - Automotive painter
 - Customer service advisor
 - Service/shop manager
 - Parts manager

ADVISOR NOTE: Text in italics should be read aloud to participants. As you engage your post in activities each week, please include comments, discussions, and feedback to the group relating to **Character, Leadership, and Ethics**. These are important attributes that make a difference in the success of youth in the workplace and in life.

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Impossible Choices

This activity is about making choices that seem impossible without the benefit of first experiencing the consequences.

Distribute the **Impossible Choices** activity sheet. Have each Explorer answer the questions by circling their choice and then lead a guided discussion as they share their responses.

Activity 2

Main Event

Begin the main event by asking the following questions:

1. *Were some of the choices in the opening activity easier than others?*
2. *Was there a common basis for your choices?*
3. *Would your choices have been easier to make if you could have experienced both consequences?*

Guide the discussion toward the conclusion that we often have to make life-altering decisions without having the benefit of understanding the consequences ahead of time. Choosing a career can feel like that at times. For this reason, it's important to gather as much information as possible before making this choice. During this meeting, Explorers will have the opportunity to find out more about some of the career choices available in the automotive repair industry.

In advance of the meeting, invite several local experts in the automotive repair industry to attend your meeting. Have them come prepared to share a brief overview of their day-to-day responsibilities, the training required to do their job, the benefits that are unique to their position, opportunities for career growth, and factors that might be considered unfavorable such as long or weekend hours or unappealing working conditions.

Have each expert give a short presentation. Following all presentations, allow your Explorers to ask questions of the panel. Make sure no single Explorer monopolizes the Q&A session.

ADVISOR NOTE

Some sample questions are below. They are designed to help the participants apply what they have learned to their own interests. You are welcome to use these questions or develop your own questions that relate to your post or specific focus area.

REFLECTION

Focusing Questions

- *What did you learn about the variety of automotive specialties that you didn't know before?*
- *Which specialty most interested you? Why?*

Analysis Questions

- *What are some of the attributes of each specialty that might make it more attractive than others?*
- *Is there a way to objectively compare the pros and cons of each career path?*

Generalization Questions

- *How can setting long-range life goals help you make a better career choice?*
- *What subjects in school do you believe would help you be better prepared for the automotive specialty that most appeals to*

you?

ADVISOR'S PARTING THOUGHT

Share the following quote by Kurt Vonnegut:

"Of all the words of mice and men, the saddest are, 'It might have been.'"

—Kurt Vonnegut

Each of us will be faced with choices in our lives that will have an effect on our futures. Today we have discussed options that could affect your income and lifelong earning potential. As important as that is, it is more important that we choose wisely who we are and not what we do.

An individual who chooses to live with integrity and be true to what is right and moral will never have to worry about making the wrong choice or regretting the past.

ADVISOR AND OFFICER REVIEW

After the meeting, address the following:

- Identify what was successful about the meeting.
- Identify what needed improvement.
- Schedule an officer and Advisor planning meeting to prepare for the next post meeting or activity.

RESOURCES

ACTIVITY 1

Impossible Choices

Give each Explorer a copy of the activity sheet. Have Explorers answer the questions by circling their choice.

Would you rather or would you rather ...
Live 1,000 years	Live 10 lives of 100 years each
Have legs as long as your fingers	Have fingers as long as your legs
Be 4'5"	Be 7'7"
Run at 100 mph	Fly at 10 mph
Have a dragon	Be a dragon
Only be able to whisper	Only be able to shout
Be good looking but deaf	Be ugly but able to hear