

■ GRADE 10: CAREER STUDIES
LANGUAGE AS A CAREER ASSET

Purpose: Students will learn how the knowledge of and respect for various languages and cultures can be an asset in the global job market.

Estimated time: 60 minutes

Resources required:

- Blackboard/Whiteboard
- Before the lesson begins, provide half of the class (ideally located on the same side of the classroom) with the Language Guide handout. Tell these students that they may use this handout during class, but the other half of the class will not have it).

Resources included:

- Interview Form (one handout per student)
- Language Guide, (4 handouts per page, provide to half of the class)

Activity 1:

1. Introduce students to the importance of culture and language by discussing a promising hypothetical career opportunity for the class:
 - a. Today we will put the skills and knowledge that we have developed throughout this class to the test. A public health administrator in Nunavut is hiring Canadian high school students for paid summer internships at newly-designed health clinics across northern Canada.
 - b. Think about the potential for people who live in northern Canada to have new health clinics. What are some of the benefits? (e.g. Better health care, better quality of life, saving money by not travelling a long distance for health care, fulfills a need to support northern communities).
2. Tell the students that in order to determine the best candidates for the job, an initial written interview will be conducted. Each student will have 15 minutes to complete the Interview Form independently (page three of the lesson plan).
3. After 15 minutes, discuss with the class their experience completing the Interview Form, first directing questions a. and b. to students who did not have the Language Guide, then opening the discussion to the entire class.
 - a. What challenges did you have when completing the form?
 - b. What do you wish you could have communicated that you were unable to?
 - c. What advantages did students who used the Language Guide have beyond simply translating words? (e.g. gaining confidence in presenting their attributes clearly)

4. Tell students that along with the usefulness of understanding different languages in career-based settings, there is also an increase in self-confidence with ability to communicate well.
 - a. According to the Online Encyclopedia of Writing Systems and Languages , “If your work involves regular contact with speakers of foreign languages, being able to talk to them in their own languages will help you to communicate with them. It may also help you to make sales and to negotiate and secure contracts. Knowledge of foreign languages may also increase your chances of finding a new job, getting a promotion or a transfer overseas, or of going on foreign business trips.”
5. Explain to the class that knowing customs and practices of different cultures provides unique benefits when communicating in the professional world.
 - a. While English is used around the world, relying on translators may put people at a disadvantage. Another benefit to learning and respecting languages is the socialization that can be built among colleagues—for example, learning about culture outside of the office, including literature, films, music and community gatherings.
6. Read the following to the class. Write the bolded print on the front blackboard/whiteboard. Ask students to first consider, then share their thoughts on the sentence below:

“Most people in the world are multilingual, and everybody could be; no one is rigorously excluded from another’s language community except through lack of time and effort. Different languages protect and nourish the growth of different cultures, where different pathways of human knowledge can be discovered. They certainly make life richer for those who know more than one of them.”

(Nicholas Ostler, Empires of the Word, 2005)

Footnotes

- ¹ Omniglot: Online Encyclopedia of Writings Systems and Language: www.omniglot.com/index.htm

INTERVIEW FORM: PAID STUDENT INTERNSHIP WITH CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH

1. What are three characteristics you have that could add value in a workplace setting? Explain why.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. What is the name of your Illiniarvik? What makes you a strong example there?

3. Are you able to work in Ukiuq, Upirnagaaq or Aujaq? Explain why.

4. Please write down your Irngiinaaqtaut to show that you are serious in applying for this position.

LANGUAGE GUIDE

Terms	In Inuktitut
Winter	Ukiuq
Spring	Upirnagaaq
Summer	Aujaq
Fall	Ukiaq
School	Ilinniarvik
Hospital	Aanniavik
E-mail	Irngiinaaqtaut

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