

Lesson: Freshman Job Description

(This lesson will take a full 50 minute class)

Objectives:

In this lesson the students will:

- focus on the qualities that are desirable for success in the first-year
- identify strengths and weaknesses in their own ability to fulfill their role as successful first-year students
- gain a more complete understanding of the requirements for success in the first-year
- see their role as a student as their “job”

Materials

Photocopies of the “Want Ad” (one copy per student)

Highlighters or colored pens

Procedures:

1. Distribute a copy of the Want Ad to each student.
2. Give each student a highlighter or a colored pen (not just pens – make them stand out!)
3. Ask students to read the ad to themselves.
4. Ask a student to read the ad out loud to the group.
5. Instruct students to underline, highlight or circle the parts of the job that they are not fulfilling or areas that they are not fulfilling very well. Tell them to be honest with themselves.
6. Instruct students to list their 3 strengths as a “job candidate” at the bottom of the ad.
7. Have students talk in small groups about their ability to do this “job”. What parts of the job are they doing well? Which parts of the job do they need to do better?
8. As a large group, ask students to highlight which aspects of the job they think are most critical to success? Why?
9. Then (again as a large group) ask if there are they parts of the job description that they don’t think are applicable to “Success?” Why not?
10. On the back of the ad, have students write goals to help them improve on the areas of the job that they see as their weaknesses. Remember, goals must be achievable and measurable. They may need to work on the goals at home. Make sure you collect the goals and comment on them before you return the work to the students.

Follow up:

Check back with the students about their progress on their goals. You may even want them to pull out the ad again in a few weeks and ask how they are doing in terms of their progress toward their goals.



SUNY Cortland

Wanted:
First-Year Students Interested in Success

The State University of New York at Cortland is actively seeking a number of first-year students willing to take an active role in their own education. First-year students are responsible for basic self-management, including attending class regularly, completing all assignments, and making responsible decisions in their personal as well as academic lives. Prospective students should be willing to collaborate with university faculty and staff and to set high standards, build solid successes, and aim for a career after college that will benefit the student and society.

Successful students will have:

- Active interest in expanding their minds and horizons
- Commitment to innovative approaches
- A willingness to be part of a community of learners
- A balanced approach to liberal education and career preparation
- Willingness to take responsibility for behaviors that advance or inhibit learning

During their first-year, students are expected to develop college-level skills in reasoning, communication, and technology that build a strong foundation for course work at the university as well as for their lives and careers after college. They also will pursue course work that helps them develop their ability to make ethical choices, appreciate beauty, understand the natural and social worlds in which they live, recognize the importance of the past, and work towards a better future.

SUNY Cortland is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University. Women, men, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities of all ages are encouraged to apply.