

Careers education in Civics and Citizenship

These teacher notes are to accompany the videos, fact sheets and other resources developed by Social Education Victoria for the Department of Education and Training's Connecting Learning to Work project.

A note about subject names

You might be exploring these resources in your Civics and Citizenship, humanities, politics or sociology class. All these subjects have some things in common, they are about understanding contemporary society, they are about exploring who has power in society, how change happens and understanding the big issues that we face.

Schools might call these subjects different names, in the USA it is called social studies, or liberal arts, in Victoria the humanities include VCE subjects such as Business Management, Australian and Politics, Sociology, Philosophy, Geography and Economics. These subjects and disciplines are all about understanding the people, society, and places – really, they are about asking, and trying to answer, some enormous questions.

Summarising research about careers in the humanities

A research report has been produced to accompany these resources. Reading this ahead of implementing these activities is highly recommended. Some key conclusions drawn in that report include:

- The humanities build in-demand transferable skills including critical thinking, decision making,
- Young people will change jobs frequently so transferable skills are essential
- Humanities skills are required across all industries
- Humanities graduates have
- Leaders in business, government and the non-profit sectors are very likely to have humanities undergraduate degrees
- Humanities graduates are in-demand in fields such as technology for their skills and knowledge

Make skill development explicit

These resources refer to skills such as critical thinking, evaluating evidence and using evidence to support a perspective.

Critical thinking: The ability to take in detailed information, think deeply about it, ask questions and suggest possible solutions or challenges, is one of the key employability skills and is something you are building in this class.

Evaluating Evidence: We live in an information rich culture, this skill is around selecting, understanding, and synthesising evidence, questioning sources, and weighing up competing perspectives

Supporting a perspective with evidence: Closely connected to communication skills, critical thinking and evaluating evidence, this skill is about developing a coherent perspective that is supported by robust evidence and articulating it clearly.

A simple strategy to get started

This strategy is a simple but effective strategy that teachers can implement to build careers knowledge in Civics and Citizenship, Politics and Sociology.

We know that the curriculum is packed so finding time to explicitly teach about careers in any subject is difficult – one way of highlighting careers is by linking to the roles and jobs associated with articles, resources and case studies that are being used in the day-to-day teaching of the subject.

1. When sharing an article or source, think about the author, or the organisation that the article is about, or written by.
2. Identify if any Civics and Citizenship, Sociology or Politics skills or knowledge are being used by the individuals or groups associated with the article.
3. When using the resource, highlight the skill, knowledge or role that is being performed.

Optional extra: A running list could be kept in the classroom (or online learning management system) of the ways that different skills and knowledge have been used as examples in class.

Examples	
DFAT White Paper	This report is produced by DFAT – this is the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – amongst other things they train and employ diplomats, policy makers and researchers, they advise the parliament – often these are people trained in Political Science, International Relations, Economics or languages. They would need to be continually building their knowledge of politics. In this article they are using evidence to support their perspective.
Documentary	This representation is documentary about the colonisation of Australia told from an Aboriginal perspective – what kind of critical thinking skills are being demonstrated by the filmmaker? He studied performing arts so must be skilled at communication – what kinds of evidence is he looking at? He didn't study Humanities at university, but does that mean he isn't showing Civics skills?
News Article	This news article is written by Michelle Grattan -She studied an Arts degree majoring in Politics. This article is an 'analysis' piece so is less about presenting the news and more about interpreting what it means and giving it context – What Civics skills might she be demonstrating here. What knowledge would you need to do this kind of job?
Website	This website is from the Minerals Council of Australia , they are a lobby group for the coal industry – what might this mean about the content of the article? What sorts of skills would the authors need? Lobbyists need to be skilled communicators and be able to select evidence that can support their perspective.