



Linking Course Content with Student Interest and the World of Work (3 activities + optional pre-activities)

Purpose:

Many students struggle to make concrete connections between aspects of their courses that they really enjoy and the world of work. The same methodological skills they have learned to conduct academic research can be applied to research and analyze the world of work. This learning bundle will guide students through the process of making explicit linkages between the aspects of your course they find most interesting, and the world around them using research, networking and analysis. By integrating these exercises into your course as a graded component, you are providing students the opportunity to realize the possible relevancies of your course to their futures while gaining valuable skills they will use throughout their lives. This bundle can be customized to your course outcomes and can be expanded or scaled down in scope to fit your assessment strategy.

Note: SOAR, TOWS or PEST are good alternatives to a SWOT analysis that might work better in your course. Tip sheets for all three types of analysis are provided below.

Learning Outcomes:

- Conduct online research to discover and learn about companies and organizations that are connected to specific aspects of the course.
- Develop a professional network in area(s) of interest through informational interviewing.
- Analyze strengths and challenges facing organizations and companies to discover potential opportunities for collaboration or connection.
- Create an interactive map of organizations and companies related to course topics. (GTA or beyond)

Activities:

- 1 • "Connecting Coursework with Your Interests"
 - **Optional Pre-Activities:**
 - Reflecting on Your Interests and Values
 - Reflecting on Experiential Learning Activities
- 2 • "Networking in Your Field of Interest"
 - **Optional Pre-Activity:**
 - Informational Interviewing Guide
- 3 • "Connecting Courses to the Canadian World of Work"
 - **Optional Supporting Resources:**
 - SOAR, SWOT, TOWS, or PEST, and Tips for Presenting Your Organizational Analysis and/or "Identifying Connections to Organizations"



Reflection



Self-regulation



Teamwork



Transfer