



MUSTANG
MINUTES
8TH GRADE

Week of October 14, 2024

CATEGORY MASH-UP

How can we connect across our differences?

**BELONGING 2: COMMUNITY // Lesson 8.2.3.
Monday, 10/14/24**



BRENÉ BROWN



“ ”

Connection is why we're here; it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives.

Brené Brown (born 1965) is an American research professor on vulnerability and leadership.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will be able to discuss their own perspectives and seek to understand the perspectives of others.

THE WAYFINDER WHY

Why is it important to seek and understand other perspectives?

When we understand why people have certain opinions or hold a certain perspective, we're better able to relate to them and build connections with them.



OPENING RITUAL

Mountains + Valleys



FOUR CATEGORIES

DIRECTIONS

- + I will share some categories and ask them to choose between four options. Each corner of the room represents one of those options. You will move to the corner that best represents their choices. (Ex: Stand in corner 1 if you prefer _____.)
- + Once you have chosen the corner that best fits, I will ask you to respond to the question associated with the category with a partner in your corner.
- + Then, you will respond to the question with someone in a different corner. You may stand in the middle if none of the options apply.

DIRECTIONS, CONTINUED

- + Clarifying Questions:
 - + Can you say more about why you believe that?
 - + What shaped your perspective?
- + Gratitude:
 - + Thank you for sharing.
 - + I'm still not sure I understand/agree, but I appreciate your sharing.

LEVEL 1: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SNACK?

SWEET

SALTY

SPICY

SOUR

LEVEL 1: WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING, LISTENING TO, WATCHING OR PLAYING?

BOOKS

MUSIC

MOVIES/TV

VIDEO GAMES

LEVEL 1: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SEASON?

SPRING

SUMMER

FALL

WINTER

LEVEL 1: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF DAY?

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

LATE NIGHT

LEVEL 1: WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY?

SPORTS

ARTS

ACADEMICS

SERVICE

LEVEL 2: WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PERSONALITY?

EXTROVERT

INTROVERT

AMBIVERT

STILL FIGURING IT OUT

LEVEL 2: WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ROLE IN A GROUP

LEADER

FOLLOWER

REBEL

CARETAKER

LEVEL 2: WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR OUTLOOK?

OPTIMIST

PESSIMIST

REALIST

IDEALIST

LEVEL 2: WHICH OF OUR SCHOOL VALUES DO YOU BEST REPRESENT?

VALUE 1

VALUE 2

VALUE 3

VALUE 4

LEVEL 3: SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS PEOPLE FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES.

STRONGLY AGREE

AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

LEVEL 3: I FEEL A LOT OF PRESSURE TO GET GOOD GRADES IN SCHOOL.

STRONGLY AGREE

AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

LEVEL 3: I EXPERIENCE PEER PRESSURE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

STRONGLY AGREE

AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

LEVEL 4: DOING THE RIGHT THING MEANS TELLING THE TRUTH 100% OF THE TIME.

RARELY

SOMETIMES

USUALLY

ALWAYS

LEVEL 4: ALL VIEWPOINTS ARE EQUALLY VALID.

STRONGLY AGREE

AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

**LEVEL 4: THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS TO
TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.**

STRONGLY AGREE

AGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE



DEBRIEF + WRAP-UP

STUDENT WORKBOOK

WORKBOOK PROMPT

- + In your Workbook/app, write three things you learned about your classmates.
- + Write three things that you learned about your classmates. If you forgot their name, feel free to ask them what their name is.
 - + Classmate's Name: _____
 - + 1.
 - + 2.
 - + 3.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- + Why do you think our experiences are so different?
- + Think about your friend groups. Do you have interests you shared that you connect on? Do you have differences that you connect on?
- + Why might it be important to connect with people who are different from us?

WRAP-UP

- + Our differences are powerful. They can act as a tool to connect us even further.
- + Taking the time and space to understand the perspectives of others helps us grow closer as a classroom community.
- + In the next lesson, we'll consider how small, positive interactions have a big impact on our overall sense of belonging and connection to one another.

The background of the slide is a light beige color with thin, orange contour lines that resemble a topographic map. The lines are irregular and wavy, creating a textured, organic feel. The text is centered on the slide.

CLOSING RITUAL

[Tweet It Out](#)

TUESDAY, 10/15/24

Central Campus Open House on Thursday night!

Programs include:

- Business Academy
- Information Technology
- Engineering Academy
- Health Sciences
- Environment and Agriculture Program
- Human Services Program



You're Invited

**CENTRAL CAMPUS
OPEN HOUSE**

OCTOBER 17TH

3:30-6:30 PM

1800 GRAND AVE., DES MOINES

**CAN'T MAKE IT ON
OCTOBER 17TH??
SCAN HERE!**



Come See the COOLEST School in Iowa!

FOCUS: SCHOOLINKS CAREER INTEREST ASSESSMENT

- Purpose: To think about future classes, goals, and career options that interest you.
- Today you will complete TWO of the Schoolinks Career Interest Tasks
 - Find Your Path
 - Would You Rather...
- Take your time, answer honestly, and remember this is all about YOU!!

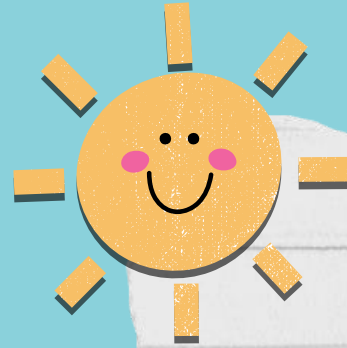
Dream



Schoolinks Career Interest Assessment



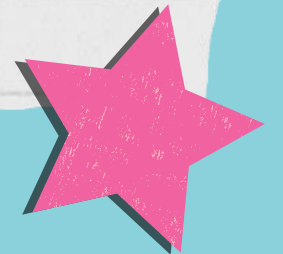
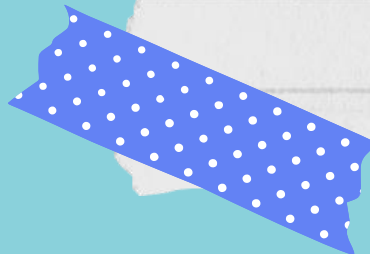
Career Interest Inventories



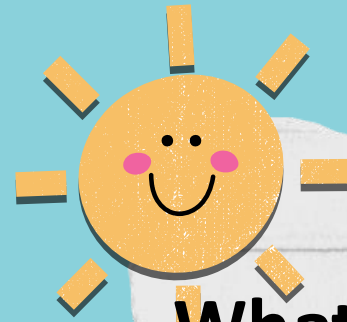
Brainstorm—90 seconds

What is a career interest inventory?

How might interest inventories help
me?



Career Interest Inventories



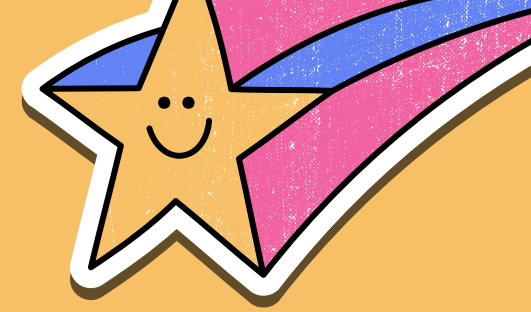
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**What is a Career Interest Inventory
and how will it be useful?**

- **Helps match your interests with occupations**
- **Can help you choose a career that's a good fit**
- **Can help you plan for future classes**



DMPS Graduation Requirements



Total 23.0 credits

Social Studies 3.0 credits

Required: US History, US Government, Economics or Microeconomics, and 1.0 additional credit in history

Science 3.0 credits

Highly Recommended: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science

English 4.0 credits

Required: English I, II, and English III and AP Lang and Comp or 1.0 additional credit in English

Physical Education 1.0 credit

Required: In compliance with Iowa law, students must be enrolled in physical education at least 1 semester each year, and must complete CPR training

Mathematics 3.0 credits

Required: Semester 1 and 2 of Algebra 1 (or higher level math course) + two additional year long classes.

Applied and Fine Arts 1.5 credits

Electives 7.5 credits

Login to Schoolinks



SchoolLinks

1

Open your internet browser

2

Type **app.schoolinks.com** into the address bar

3

Click on "Log in with Clever"

4

Log in with Single Sign In

- **Search "Merrill Middle School"**
- **Login with student ID and computer password**

Today you will be taking "Find your path" and "Would you rather"

SchoolLinks assessments

Take these assessments to get help navigating the college and career planning process.

Find your path

Get suggested career clusters based on your personality.

Use this info to jumpstart your college and career exploration process!

Last Taken 3:37 PM 10/08/2022

[Start assessment →](#)

[Past results](#)

Would you rather

Choose your favorite activities to get career suggestions.

Use this info to see which of your favorite careers match your hobbies!

● NEVER TAKEN

[Start assessment →](#)

Top skills

Discover your top skills and areas for improvement.

Use this info to see which careers match your skill set!

● NEVER TAKEN

[Start assessment →](#)

Learning style

Answer questions about how you prefer to learn and solve problems.

Use this info to set yourself up for more effective learning in the future!

● NEVER TAKEN

[Start assessment →](#)

Student focus

Discover your motivations for life after high school.

Use this info to analyze the colleges and programs you're interested in!

● NEVER TAKEN

[Start assessment →](#)

Discover your campus lifestyle

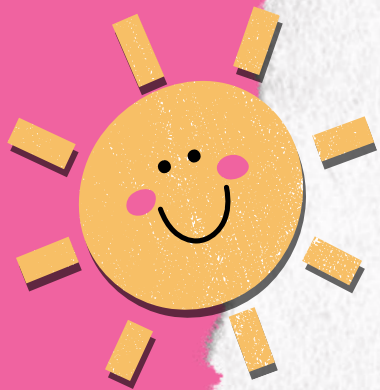
What kind of lifestyle do you want to lead at your college campus?

Take our quiz and find out!

● NEVER TAKEN

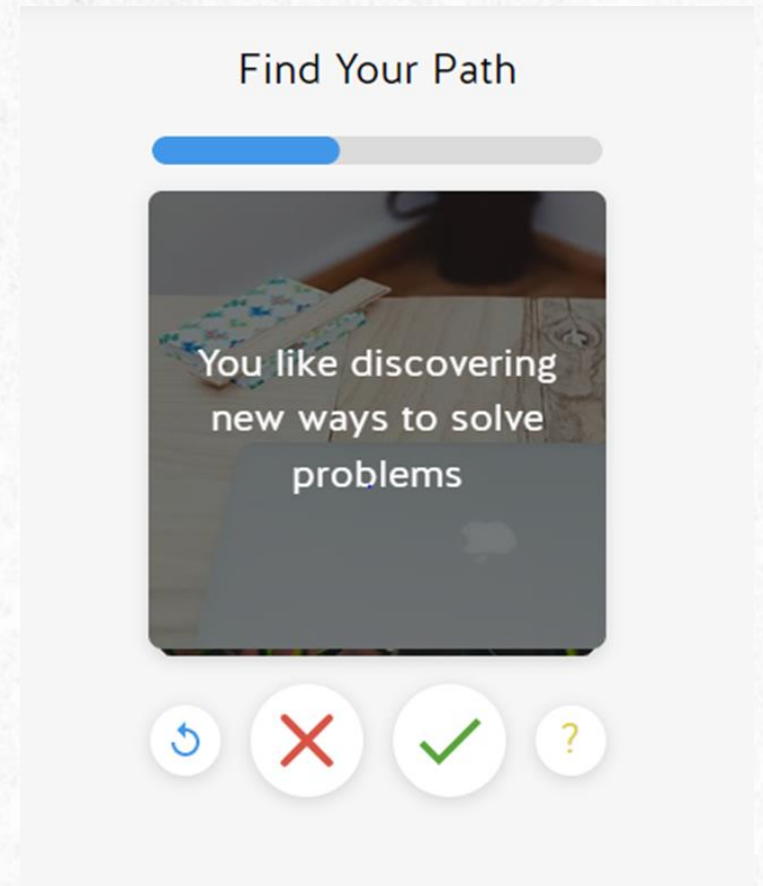
[Start assessment →](#)

Find Your Path Career Interest Inventory



Respond to each item. Make sure to ask for clarification if you don't know what an item is asking. Take your time.

There is no correct answer, the right answer is what fits best for YOU.



Find Your Path

Career Interest Assessment

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for a career interest assessment. At the top, the title "Find Your Path" is displayed. Below the title is a progress bar that is approximately one-third full. The main content area features a dark grey card with a background image of a desk with a laptop and papers. The text on the card reads: "You like discovering new ways to solve problems". Below the card is a row of four circular buttons: a blue circular arrow (refresh), a red 'X' (disagree), a green checkmark (agree), and a yellow question mark (unsure). Blue arrows point from text callouts to these elements.

Progress bar

This statement does not sound like you or you disagree with it

Return to previous question

Find Your Path

You like discovering new ways to solve problems

Does this statement sound like you?
Is it something you enjoy?

This statement sounds like you or is something you agree with

Unsure what this is/means

Results

The screenshot shows the 'Personality Match' section of a career assessment tool. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Personality' selected, followed by 'Career Cluster', 'Career', 'Major/Training', and 'Results'. Below the navigation bar, the title 'Personality Match' is centered. Underneath, it says 'You're like the **Advocate**' and lists six personality traits: Conscientious, Committed, Organized, Decisive, Original, Sensitive, and Individualistic. To the left, under 'Advocates tend to...', there are three bullet points: 'Base decisions on intuition rather than logic', 'Seek time alone to regroup and recharge', and 'Make organized lists and schedules'. To the right, under 'Top cluster matches', there are three items: 'Health Science', 'Government and Public Administration', and 'Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security'. At the bottom, under 'Famous Advocates', there are four circular portraits of Lady Gaga, Mahatma Gandhi, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Zoe Saldana.

Read and hit next







The screenshot shows the 'Career Cluster' selection screen of a career assessment tool. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Personality', 'Career Cluster' (selected), 'Career', 'Major/Training', and 'Results'. Below the navigation bar, the text 'Choose a Career Cluster that interests you' is centered, with a link '[Not sure what to choose?](#)' below it. The main content area is titled 'Top cluster matches' and lists three clusters: 'Health Science', 'Government and Public Administration', and 'Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Other clusters' which lists 'Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' and 'Architecture and Construction'. Each cluster card includes an icon, the cluster name, and a brief description of the cluster.

Select one career cluster and
hit next

Personality — Career Cluster — **Career** — Major/Training — Results

Search Careers

Careers in your cluster

-  Cartography and Photogrammetry
[See Details](#)
-  Survey Research
[See Details](#)
-  Museum Technicians and Conservators
[See Details](#)
-  Economic Analysis
[See Details](#)
-  Geography
[See Details](#)
-  Politics and Government
[See Details](#)

Select one career and hit next








Select a major and hit next

Personality — Career Cluster — Career — **Major/Training** — Results

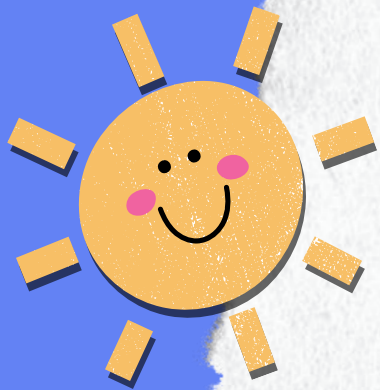
Choose a **Major** or **Training Program** that interests you
[Not sure what to choose?](#)

Search Majors

Related majors or training programs

-  Political Science and Government
-  International Relations and Affairs
-  Public Administration
-  Occupational Safety and Health Technology/Technician
-  Public Policy Analysis
-  Intelligence
-  Urban Studies/Affairs

Would you rather Career Interest Inventory



Respond to each item.

You are selecting the item you would most like to do. Even if both sound like something you would not do, select the one that you would like more.

There is no correct answer, the right answer is what fits best for YOU.

Would You Rather...

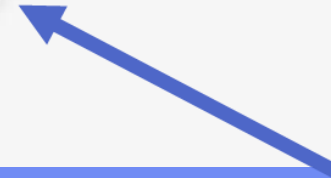
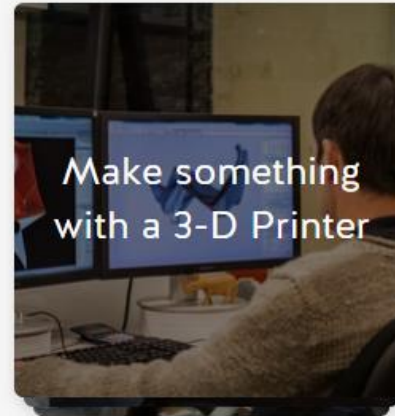
Shadow a software engineer OR Make something with a 3-D Printer

Would You Rather...

Progress bar



OR



Select the check mark under the statement you would prefer to do.

Results

Would You Rather...

Here are the results of the survey based on the choices you made.

- 1 Manufacturing
- 2 Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- 3 Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- 4 Health Science



Based on your chosen activities, you seem to be...



Realistic

You are a Doer

You value:

Building and creating real things

Your skills:

Building, using tools, and working with your hands



Conventional

You are an Organizer

You value:

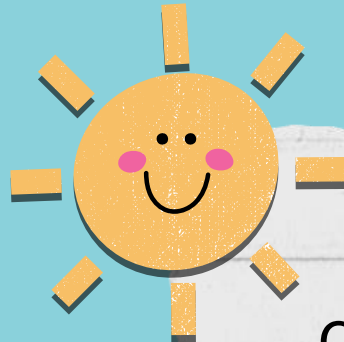
Creating order out of a mess

Your skills:

Organization, time management, and understanding complicated rules

Career clusters to explore
based on your interests

Central Campus Programs



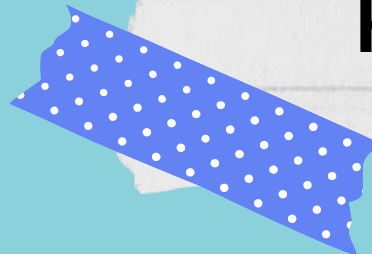
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Central Campus offers a wide variety of programs. Many earn both high school and college credits.

Merrill 8th grade students will be visiting Central Campus Oct 22 or Nov 7.

Use this link to learn more about Central Programs from current Central students:

<https://t.ly/CentralCampus>



Social Studies

Wednesday, 10/16

SET UP A 1/2 PAGE OF LINED PAPER WITH A 3-2-1 FOR CNN 10!

- **3 FACTS**
- **2 QUESTIONS OR PICTURES (OR 1 OF EACH)**
- **1 JUSTIFIED OPINION**

Science

Thursday, 10/17

[Hey deer short animation \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Students need to write a summary following the sequence of events. The summary should include 5 sentences, with the realization that it is a snow globe being at the end.

If there's additional time, have students work on a picture showing perspective. They can do the child's perspective, or the animal inside the snow globe. They must draw a picture of what the other one sees.

ELA

Friday, 10/18