



Introduction to the

SkillsUSA Framework

Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan: Introduce the SkillsUSA Framework



Goal of the Activity

Identify key aspects of SkillsUSA Framework including the 17 Essential Elements and evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses using the Framework as a guide.

Overview

Students will consider skills needed for their future careers and then complete a matching activity with the Essential Elements and descriptors. Students will connect the Framework to their future careers. Students will end with a Kahoot! review game.

Time Required: 50 minutes

Suggested participants: All middle school students

Materials Needed:

- Lesson Plan
- PowerPoint slide deck (optional)
- SkillsUSA Framework Printout (one for each student)
- Writing utensil for each student, envelope (one per group)
- A set of the SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements and Descriptions cards (one per group)
- Internet and personal devices for each student or copies of the printed Essential Element Assessment and any needed A/V equipment as you prefer.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

1. Describe the SkillsUSA Framework and Essential Elements
2. Evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses using the SkillsUSA Framework

Facilitation Instructions

Part 1: Spark interest and set the stage (5 minutes)

Say: "What is your dream job?" (allow for several responses)

Do: Give each student a SkillsUSA Framework Handout.

Say: "Write down your dream job on the blank that says, 'Dream Job'." (give response time)

Say: "Then, write three skills you will need to be successful in that career." (give response time; then allow for few responses)

Say: "Raise your hand if you currently excel and possess all three of the skills you listed" (allow for response)

Say: "Raise your hand if you do not possess all three of the skills you listed." (allow for response)

Say: "Why?" (allow for 2-3 responses)

Say: "We need to develop skills and have real experiences to prepare for our future careers. No one expects you to be ready today. However, when you leave high school, you should be well on your way to career readiness."

Say: "SkillsUSA is America's proud champion of the skilled trades. Our mission is to empower students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members."

Part 2: Preview the SkillsUSA Framework (15 minutes)

Say: *"The three components of the SkillsUSA Framework are: Personal, Workplace and Technical skills. Personal Skills include values, personality traits and personal characteristics for success in life. Workplace Skills are attitudes and abilities for success in the workplace. Finally, Technical Skills include the knowledge and competencies for success on the job. Each component contains five or six Essential Elements, which are specific skills or traits. These elements are further defined with descriptors of how to demonstrate and display these skills."*

Say: *"We will work in groups. Each group will receive an envelope that contains cards with the Essential Elements and descriptors for one of the three Framework components. Your group will read the cards and match the descriptors to the Essential Element. There is one descriptor for each element."*

Activity: "Essential Elements Matching"

1. Divide students into 3, 6 or 9 groups.
2. Give each group one envelope containing cards with the essential elements and descriptors for one of the Framework components.
3. Monitor groups and check accuracy as groups finish.
4. Have students write the Essential Elements (only the elements, not the descriptors) on their handout beside the corresponding component.
5. Have groups mix their cards and put them back in the envelope.
6. Have groups switch envelopes so each group has a new component of the Framework.
7. Repeat the activity until each group has completed all three components.
8. Collect the envelopes.

Say: *"The SkillsUSA Framework highlights the skills needed for student success and career readiness. These are obtained through SkillsUSA programming, CTE classes and industry partnerships. The SkillsUSA Framework delivers a skill set demanded by business and industry but lacking in many of today's employees."*

Part 3: Complete Essential Element Assessment (20 minutes)

Say: *"You will complete an Essential Element assessment by rating yourself on each Essential Element using the scale of rarely, sometimes, usually, always. Be as honest as you can."*

Activity: "Essential Element Assessment"



1. Write your email address, chapter number and the website for the assessment on the writing surface. (If students do not have access to internet and personal devices, print the assessment ahead of time.)
2. Monitor students as they work. Allow about one minute per Essential Element.

Say: *"What Essential Elements are your strengths?"* (allow for a few responses)

Say: *"What Essential Elements are your weaknesses?"* (allow for a few responses)

Part 4: Connect SkillsUSA Framework to Future Career (5 minutes)

Say: *"Now review the Framework handout and think about your dream career. Put a star beside all Essential Elements that you will need to possess in your future career."* (allow 90 seconds)

Say: *"Which skills do you need and why?"* (allow for a few responses)

Say: *"Every activity and program within SkillsUSA is developed to support the three Framework components. Members are guaranteed to possess these essential skills after successfully participating."*

Part 5: Closing (5 minutes)



Activity: “SkillsUSA Framework Kahoot!”

1. If you have a Kahoot! account, you can host a live Kahoot! game. If you do not have an account, use one of the self-study options. Play as a class, put students into groups, or have them complete the activity individually.
2. Two games are available: [*SkillsUSA Framework Short Round*](#) and [*SkillsUSA Framework Long Round*](#)

Say: “The SkillsUSA Framework empowers each of us to achieve career success in the job of our choice. To benefit, you must participate. Take advantage of opportunities and experiences, which will prepare you for the future, and allow you to have fun with your classmates and peers.

✓ Tips For Success

- Keep the groups small with no more than five students per group
- Encourage students to get involved in SkillsUSA activities
- Make it a goal for students to learn and practice the Essential Elements in the classroom.

Conclusion

The SkillsUSA Framework is unique to SkillsUSA. The components and essential elements are gained through intentional activities and lessons in the classroom and through participation in SkillsUSA programs and events. SkillsUSA members will be career ready when they graduate high school.



Expand your Skills

[*The SkillsUSA Framework*](#) section of the SkillsUSA website which includes the [*SkillsUSA Framework Video*](#) to expand your own knowledge. To increase student knowledge, use [*SkillsUSA Framework Bingo*](#), [*SkillsUSA Framework Stories*](#), and the [*Framework Integration Strategies*](#).

Supporting Resources

Framework Integration Toolkit (located at pathful.skillsusa.com)

