

Interviews with theater professionals



Length:
40-45 minutes

About this lesson

Students will participate in a classroom discussion about the skills and qualifications needed for different careers in performing arts, and will consider which career path might be a good fit for their interests and abilities. Then, in groups, they will explore one career and will facilitate and take part in a simulated interview with a working professional in the performing arts.

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will

- Describe the skills, qualifications, and interests needed for a job in the performing arts, as well as the core tasks of these careers.
- Work as a creative team to make interpretive choices and act out a simulated interview with a performing arts professional for the class.

Inquiry prompts

- What skills and interests does a person need for a career in the performing arts?
- How do careers in theater, music, and dance differ from one another? How are they the same?

Before you begin

1. Ensure that you are able to play the [Performing arts and your future success](#) video. This video is also available in [Spanish](#).
2. Ensure that you are able to log into your student demo account and can access **Explore Options**.
3. Ensure that students are able to log into their accounts and access **Explore Options**.
4. Decide whether to take discussion/brainstorming notes with your class via a slide deck and project for students to view, or on a whiteboard in the physical classroom.

Teaching strategies

- 1 Show students the [Performing arts and your future success](#) video. This video is also available in [Spanish](#). When the video is over, ask students to give examples of two careers in the performing arts.
- 2 Have students log in to their accounts. In your student demo account, click on **Careers** under **Explore Options** and direct students to do the same. Then direct students click on **More filters**, scroll down to either **Career Clusters** and click on **Arts, A/V Technology & Communications**, or to **School Subjects** and click on **Art & Music**. Then apply the filter to narrow the list of careers. Once students do this, they will be able to see the performing arts-related careers in Xello.
- 3 Direct students to follow your lead as you select one career, click on it, and

Xello entry point

None—students can dive right in!

Materials required

- [Performing arts and your future success](#) video. This video is also available in [Spanish](#).
- Computers or tablets with Internet access
- Whiteboard and whiteboard markers (optional)

Artifacts

Students:

- Reflect on simulated interviews with professionals

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scroll down to the job description. Skim through this with students, then click on one of the interviews beneath the job description. Read through the interview with students. Then discuss the following questions as a class:

- How is this job related to performing arts?
- What kind of skills does a professional in this career need to have? What about their interests?
- What are the most important tasks this person does each day? How do they use their skills to complete these tasks?
- How are the skills you're learning in your performing arts classes right now relate to this career?

4 Next, explain to students that they will be giving model interviews for careers in the performing arts. As a class, write 4-5 interview questions that focus on daily tasks, skills needed, and education/career pathways. Note that these interviews are meant to be informational and should not concern the personal feelings of the interviewee about the career.

5 Direct students to work in pairs. Give students 15-20 minutes to do the following in their pairs:

- Use **Explore Careers**, as previously modeled, to select a performing arts related career.
- Read the job description and interviews for the career chosen.
- Take some time to practice responding to the questions brainstormed by the class in character as a professional in the chosen career. Each student will be answering interview questions.

6 Pairs will now take turns being interviewed. Either the teacher or members of the class should ask each pair the questions brainstormed by the class. Both students in each pair will take turns answering the questions in character.

7 Once students have finished presenting their interviews, answer the following discussion questions as a class:

- What are the most important things to know about a specific career?
- Can acting out the role of a professional help you better understand what the career is like in real life?
- What differences did you notice among careers related to theater/drama, music, and dance? What similarities did you notice?