



Introduction to Skills for Secondary School Success

This lesson is designed to give students an overview of both the entire 4S course and the “Learning with a Sense of Purpose” unit. It also includes a community-building experience.

Essential Questions for 5 Units

- How does my learning at school help me prepare to become the person I want to be?
- How can I develop the expertise and mindsets I need to accomplish my most important goals, despite the challenges I may face?
- How can effective strategies help me take charge of my learning, in class and out?
- How do we co-create a classroom and school community where learning is engaging and liberating for all?
- How do I want to make a difference in my community or in the world?

Guiding Question

What will we be learning and doing in this course?

Objectives

- Students will begin to build a positive classroom community and will gain an overview of what they will learn and do in the 4S course.

Advance Preparation

- Prepare Unit Stations, using materials provided
- Place Course Overview (Do Now) where students can pick sheets up on arrival.

Materials/Resources

- Powerpoint slideshow 1.1 (adapt as needed)
- Station posters
- Station questions
- Post-it notes and pens or markers

Student Materials

- Course overview sheet for Do Now

Do Now

Skim the course overview sheet. Put a check mark beside the unit title that sounds most interesting or most helpful to you.

Introduction (Framing/Overview)

5 min.

1. Welcome students to Skills for Secondary School Success. Explain that today's goal is to give students an overview of what they will be learning and doing in this course, which is designed to help them prepare for high school.
2. Explain that before they dive into looking at the different units in the course, they will take part in an activity to build a sense of community within the class.

Activity 1: Birthday Lineup Community Building Activity

10 min.

1. Explain to students the goal and guidelines for the Birthday Lineup.
 - Goal is for students to line up in order of their birthdays, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, as quickly as possible (teacher times the class).
 - No one may speak out loud, but students can write messages using the paper provided.**Whole class cooperative activity**
2. When students have lined up, each one shares his/her name, birthday, and favorite birthday food; teacher records birthdates of all students (using sheet provided at end of lesson plan guide, if desired). Acknowledge upcoming birthdays.
3. Teacher leads class to debrief the activity. Possible debriefing questions include:
 - What did you notice about strategies you used to make this work?
 - What steps could have helped us do this faster (besides being able to talk out loud)?
 - Did you find anyone with a birthday close to yours that you didn't already know about?**Whole class discussion**

Activity 2:

(20-25 minutes)

1. Divide students into five groups by birthday. Groups do a gallery walk to discover what each unit will focus on.
 - Encourage students to discuss or post responses to the questions at each unit station.
 - Groups spend about 4-5 minutes at each station. (Advise students when it is time to move to the next station.)**Cooperative learning in teams**
2. Invite students to briefly report on what they noticed. Which units do they think will be most interesting? Most fun? Most useful?**Whole class discussion**

Closure

Teacher gives a brief overview of upcoming Unit 1 themes and activities (using slide show):

- *Who am I? What is my purpose?*
- *What work will fit with my talents, interests, and personality?*
- *How does school prepare me to fulfil my life's purpose and work?*

Do Now: Course Overview Sheet

Listed below are the titles for the different units in the Skills for Secondary School Success (4S) course. Read the titles of the units and place a check mark beside the name of the unit that you think will be most interesting or helpful to you.

_____ **Unit 1: Learning with a Sense of Purpose**

_____ **Unit 2: Confronting Challenges and Having a Growth Mindset**

_____ **Unit 3: Managing My Learning**

_____ **Unit 4: Interacting with Others as We Learn Together**

_____ **Unit 5: Making a Difference in My Community and World**

Group Discussion Questions for Course Overview Gallery Walk (NOTE: See separate sheets on next pages for each station for teacher to use)

Learning with a Sense of Purpose

What do you think of as your purpose in life?
What gives you purpose in learning right now?
How is school helping you prepare for your life after you finish your education?

Confronting Challenges and Having a Growth Mindset

What kind of challenges do you think you might face in high school?
What strategies do you use now when you confront challenges?
What do you think it might mean to have a “growth mindset”?

Managing My Learning

How do you feel about the idea of managing your own learning?
How are you managing your learning now?
What do you think it would be useful to know to help you manage your learning in high school?

Interacting with Others as We Learn Together

What does the word “community” mean to you?
What is your vision of classroom community?
Why would we want to connect with others in our communities?

Making a Difference in My Community and World

How would you like to make a difference in your community or in the world?
What do you need to help prepare you to do this?
How could we start making a difference in our community or world this year?

Unit 1: Learning with a Sense of Purpose and Belonging

What do you think of as your purpose in life?

What gives you purpose in learning right now?

**How is school helping you prepare for your life
after you finish your education?**

Unit 2: Confronting Challenges and Having a Growth Mindset

What kind of challenges do you think you might face in high school?

What strategies do you use now when you confront challenges?

What do you think it might mean to have a “growth mindset”?

Unit 3: Managing My Own Learning

How do you feel about the idea of managing your own learning?

How are you managing your learning now?

**What do you think it would be useful to know
to help you manage your learning in high school?**

Unit 4: Interacting with Others as We Learn Together

What does the word “community” mean to you?

What is your vision of classroom community?

Why would we want to connect with others in our communities?

Unit 5: Making a Difference in My Community and World

How would you like to make a difference in your community or in the world?

What do you need to help prepare you to do this?

**How could we start making a difference
in our community or world this year?**