

## *Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth*

# Compare and Contrast: Students and Employees

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*We can secure other people's approval, if we do right and try hard; but our own is worth a hundred of it.—Mark Twain*

*The dictionary is the only place where 'success' comes before 'work.'*—Vidal Sassoon

*Persistence is the hard work that you do after you are tired of doing the hard work you already did.*—Newt Gingrich

**Student Activity:** Participate in a class discussion of how having a good work ethic at school can lead to a good work ethic as an employee. As part of the discussion, compare and contrast the roles of the student and the employee.

**Note to Teacher:** After the discussion, give students copies of the handout, Similarities and Differences ([http://www.cteresource.org/attachments/atb/ewrs/HO7\\_SameDifferent.pdf](http://www.cteresource.org/attachments/atb/ewrs/HO7_SameDifferent.pdf)). Explain that they may use it, along with their own ideas, to write an essay or prepare an oral presentation.

Have them select one or more items from both similarities and differences on the handout (They may use their own ideas on similarities and differences instead). Ask them to write a one page essay or prepare a 5-10 minute oral presentation that uses personal experiences, examples, and/or viewpoints to exemplify the items they have chosen.

For example, have them describe how they cooperated with others in a specific school situation to bring about beneficial results. Have them describe how they have or might do the same in a work situation. Or what do they think it means to keep working without encouragement? Have them cite specific scenarios, either real or as they imagine them.

**Suggested Learning Measure:** Essay or oral presentation that compares and contrasts the demands of being a student vs. those of being an employee; may be computer-produced and may use visuals

**Internet Resource:** The Work Ethic Site  
Lesson 5—Being Dependable  
<http://workethic.coe.uga.edu/less5.html>

**Internet Resource:** HaveFunTeaching  
Double Entry Journal Worksheet  
<http://files.havefunteaching.com/free-worksheets/general/venn-diagram-graphic-organizer.pdf>