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**M4 Lesson 5: The Changing Work World**

Core Competencies:

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| * Communication | * Thinking | * Personal & Social |

Big Ideas:

* Career-life decisions are influenced by internal and external factors, including local and global trends.

Curricular Competencies:

* Identify career-life challenges and opportunities, and generate and apply strategies
* Explore and reflect on career-life roles, personal growth and initial planning for preferred career-life pathways
* Develop preliminary profiles and flexible plans for career-life learning journeys

In this assignment, students will learn how the work world is evolving, and what those changes mean for their career-life decisions. By considering the skills that employers are seeking, and what the future of work looks like, students will be better equipped to identify challenges and opportunities.

For Students:

#### **The Labour Market & The Changing Workplace**

The term "changing workplace" has been around since the mid-1980s.  It refers to how work is performed, supervised and managed.  These changes can result from new technology or company restructuring.

As companies continue to reshape themselves amidst fast-paced change and global competition, they are also redefining what it means to hold a job.  The world of work is more flexible and more chaotic than ever before. Individuals who take responsibility for their own job security ensure their continued employability.  These individuals will survive this transformation.

### **Need for a Skilled Workforce**

The importance of data also reflects the trend toward a more skilled workforce.  More than ever before, jobs require reading, mathematics and communications skills.  Companies are demanding that workers have more than just the hard technical skills to perform a job.  You need a new dimension of personal skills or soft skills.

Despite the ever-increasing amount of information in the world, no one can accurately predict the future.  We do not know for sure which skills will be most in demand 5—10 years from now, or the types of jobs that will exist then.  For that reason, a good education does not guarantee a bright future.  However, the lack of skills and a good education definitely leads to missed opportunities.  Lifetime learning and the development of "soft" personal skills will ensure that people are ready for every challenge.

**What qualities are employers seeking?**

Watch this short video on what employers are seeking in their workforce today:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5S0wSFKdX8>

In addition, this is an interesting TEDTalk by Jason Shen about the importance of highlighting abilities, not experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guXxy8LH2QM>

In terms of what future jobs will look like, there is another great TEDTalk that gives some insight:

<https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_mcafee_what_will_future_jobs_look_like?language=en>

Activity – watch the video as a class and answer the questions below individually, in small groups or through a gallery walk.

Watch the video, "Preparing Students For The Real World" and complete the following discussion questions below.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CY1iH_TObMs>

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the student in the video believe school curriculum should offer to better prepare students for the "real world"?

2. Which recommendations do you agree and disagree with? Would you add or takeaway anything to her recommendations?

3. What do you feel most prepared for heading into the "real world"? What are you unsure of or feel unprepared for in the "real world"?

4. Do you think her recommendations should be taught in school, at home, or both?