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**M5 Lesson 2: Work Safety Part 1 – Young Workers at Risk**

Core Competencies:

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

Big Ideas:

* Lifelong learning fosters career-life opportunities.

Curricular Competencies:

* Demonstrate inclusive, respectful, and safe interactions in diverse career-life environments
* Practice effective strategies for healthy school/work/life balance

In this assignment, students are introduced to the Worksafe BC and how important it is to stay safe in the world of work.

For Students:

As an introduction to this unit, it is good to have a general discussion of workplace safety. Usually students will open up about people that they know or stories they have heard about people getting injured at work. Explain why it is so incredibly important that they know about issues surrounding workplace safety, and their rights and responsibilities.

Young workers, especially males, are the most likely group to be hurt or killed on a job.  British Columbia has more than a quarter of a million workers from ages 15 - 24. Keeping them safe on the job is everyone's job. [WorkSafe](https://www.worksafebc.com/en) is BC's organization that deals with workplace safety.

[***Worksafe BC***](http://www.worksafebc.com/)

Do you know why youth are more likely to be injured or killed?  (Discuss potential reasons as a class).

Some of the reasons why 15 - 24 year olds are more likely to be injured on the job include:

* they try too hard
* not reporting unsafe conditions
* unfamiliar with the workplace/ machinery/ equipment
* taking risks
* insufficiently trained
* not understanding or recognizing the risks
* not wanting to appear foolish or uninformed to peers or boss
* not being sure of their rights

To start our Worksafe unit, you will watch a short video called **Lost Youth** that tells the stories of four young workers who were all injured on the job.

**PLEASE NOTE AND DISCUSS WITH STUDENTS:**the video contains graphic re-enactments of workplace injuries. Please turn away or close your eyes if these scenes make your feel uncomfortable.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=DMT5OFw5OCQ>

Assignment

Take a minute to think about the four youth that were featured in the video **Lost Youth**. Each of the four people in the video did not expect their lives to change dramatically when they left for work that day.

Read the following statements, which are all quotations from the film:

* You get the job that you think you can do, and I knew I could do the job.
* I wanted everyone there to be surprised at how good and efficient I worked.
* If someone told me that they wanted something done, there was no way I was going to say no.
* I wanted to impress everyone. I wanted to show them I could do everything that they could.
* It seemed unsafe, but I felt that was an inherent part of the risk of any job. I felt that the things that I did that were dangerous were just part of the job.
* I had seen so many guys do it, I had done it a few times myself, and I didn't see anything wrong with it.
* Make sure you know what kind of training you need. Know your rights, know what is required of you and what is required from your employer.
* If you don't know a machine, and they expect you to use it, just say no. Say "I will not touch this machine until you train me to use it."

Select one or more statements, and write a brief comment adding to the discussion explaining what the statement means to you in terms of your own experiences in your life, or experiences in the lives of others in relation to the context of the video. You are welcome to add your thoughts about:

* Which of the four stories made the most impact on you, and why?
* Were there any facts in the video that surprised you? How so?
* How have the lives changed for the young workers in the video and their families? How would your life change if you suffered a similar workplace injury?

Assessment: