

***CONSTRUCTION ROLE DEFINITIONS***

By Joseph Sanford (wdginc@gmail.com )

**DEMONSTRATION/DISCUSSION**

**This module is part of the Construction Path. It is to be presented in one session to foment understanding of how to identify and understand the different roles construction people perform when they build, and how they work together.**

**Educational Goals**:

 Students will:

* Learn the terms which identify the roles in construction
* Learn how many different people are involved on a construction project
* Discover how all these roles work together to build a project
* Be introduced to the way the construction industry works to promote these trades
* Learn how important these trades are to the construction industry and our economy

Ov**erview**: This module consists of a Power Point with a definition of the terms used in the construction trades, examples of the work they perform, how they relate to the General Contractor, and thoughts on how to get involved with them.

This module, being part of the Construction Path, is mostly meant to be read aloud, viewing the videos, and discussed as a group.

**Content:** The main content consists of descriptions of the trade, examples of what kind of work they do, and the importance of trade labor to the continued ability of building projects to be built. The Green Component will show how these trades are reacting to new demands for environmental sensitivity.

**Time**: Approximately 1-1.5 hours. Mentor should foment discussion of each of the ideas introduced by asking the students what they saw, what they thought the positive impacts would be on the environment and society, help them to see how much work goes into a project, and make them aware of the buildings they use on a daily basis and how they were constructed. Mentor should feel free to experiment with the ideas and see what else the students might envision regarding construction in their daily lives.

**Materials Needed**:

* Computer and Projector

**Directions**: Very simple…run the Power Point on the projector, follow it, ask questions about what they are seeing, and use the information to introduce the concept of trades and their importance as a solution to building needs. The main thing the students take away is to understand that it takes people to build structures, people with training and skills and ability, as buildings will never be built by machines.

**Topics to Discuss**:

Discuss how complex building projects are and how many people it takes to accomplish them

 Discuss the need for well-trained and experienced personnel who can read plans and follow directions to build what the Architect or Engineer designed

Also, discuss how the trades work together under the general contractor to complement one another

As a discussion point, ask if any of the students have ever seen a building under construction. Ask what they thought and if any of it was interesting to them.

If your class seems especially bright, perhaps have them do research on the condition of construction labor in America today and the issues of the aging work force.

M**entor Notes**: This module is intended to unravel the complex world of Construction and explain what all the different trades do. How they work together in concert under a general contractor, is a time-tested system in America. However, it is not the most efficient system (see Pre-Fabulous for an alternative system which is similar but much more efficient), but it is a very effective system. Hopefully, by the end of this module, the students will at least have a better idea where buildings come from and how they are constructed.