

***HOW THINGS ARE BUILT IN AMERICA!***

By Joseph Sanford ([wdginc@gmail.com](mailto: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 method by which homes are built in America.**

**Educational Goals**:

Students will:

* Learn the process by which homes are generally built in this country
* Learn how many different trades are involved on a construction project
* Discover the sequence of events from beginning to finish to produce a home
* Be introduced to ancillary roles such as the Architects, Bankers and the Realtors who are part of the project

Ov**erview**: This module consists of a Power Point with a definition of the sequence and the trades used in the construction of a home, from finding the land to finding financing, to the Architectural design, to the selection of the General Contractor, and the sub-contractors.

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 different trades, examples of what kind of work they do, and where they fit into the construction sequence. There are pictures depicting each phase of the project and the workmen and results of their work.

**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 of the sequencing, helping 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 the construction sequence and the trades involved in it. The main thing the students take away is to understand that it takes a process, which has not really changed in over 100 years, to build any building and it involves not only the builders and trades, but Architects, Engineers, Bankers, Realtors, and other people not directly involved with the building of the project.

**Topics to Discuss**:

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

Discuss the process itself and the sequence…could the electrician wire the home if the Framing Contractor did not put up the frame first? What about doing the sheet rock before the insulation? There has to be a logical sequence to the work

Also, talk about the need for a plan to start the process (once you know where it will be built) and how difficult it would be to build something without a plan

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 inclusion of Green Building Practices on the process and the impacts of that inclusion, both positive and negative.

M**entor Notes**: This module is intended to unravel the complex world of Construction and explain how the process of construction works in America. However, this process 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. It is also not the most cost-effective system, as the cost of construction is always very high. 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.