



# Career Exploration: Discover Your Future

## CLASSROOM DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Time Needed:** 25-30 minutes

**Audience:** Grades K-8

**Objective:** Spark student interest in plumbing, heating, cooling, electrical, and customer experience careers using fun visuals, simple questions, and real-life examples.

### 1 Step One: Conversation Starter (2 min)

**Suggested Opening:** "What's the first thing you did when you woke up? Did you turn on a light, wash your hands, or feel warm or cool air in your home? Now imagine your day without lights, without running water, and no heating or cooling. That's where electricians, plumbers, and HVAC technicians come in and keep our spaces safe and comfortable. These careers, and many others, are part of the skilled trades and they use science, math, and technology every day!"

*Tip for younger students (K-3): Ask them to raise their hands if they've ever had a light not work or the sink stop working. Explain that a tradesperson can fix it.*

### 2 Step Two: Explore the Posters (5-10 min)

Choose the poster kit that best fits your class discussion.

#### English Career Path Posters

*(Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Customer Experience, and "Why Consider a Career in the Trades".)*

Display the five posters and focus on the path from education to career success.

**Ask:**

- "Why are plumbers, HVAC technicians, and electricians important?"
- "What kinds of places might a plumber, HVAC technician, or electrician work?"
- "How do HVAC technicians help keep people comfortable year-round?"
- "What do you think the role of a journeyman or master electrician includes?"
- "How do people in customer service or dispatch help both customers and technicians?"
- "What are some reasons the trades are a good career choice?"
- "What would happen if we didn't have people to fix these things?"

**Optional Activity:** Invite students to choose a trade and map out their own career path using the poster as a guide. Encourage them to share what step they would be most excited about.

### Spanish Career Path Posters

*(Translated versions of the Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Customer Experience, and “Why Consider a Career in the Trades” posters.)*

**Use the posters to spark conversations in Spanish about career exploration and real-world jobs.**

**Ask:**

- ¿Por qué son importante los plomeros, técnicos en HVAC y electricistas? (Why are plumbers, HVAC technicians, and electricians important?)
- ¿En qué tipo de lugares podría trabajar un plomero, técnico en HVAC o electricista? (What kinds of places might a plumber, HVAC technician, or electrician work?)
- ¿Cómo ayudan los técnicos en HVAC a mantener las personas cómodas durante todo el año? (How do HVAC technicians help keep people comfortable year-round?)
- ¿Qué crees que incluye el trabajo de un electricista oficial o maestro electricista? (What do you think the role of a journeyman or master electrician includes?)
- ¿Cómo ayudan las personas en servicio al cliente o despacho tanto a los clientes como a los técnicos? (How do people in customer service or dispatch help both customers and technicians?)
- ¿Cuáles son algunas de las razones por las que los oficios son una buena opción profesional? (What are some reasons the trades are a good career choice?)
- ¿Qué pasaría si no tuviéramos personas que pudieran arreglar estas cosas? (What would happen if we didn't have people to fix these things?)

**Optional Activity:** Have students write or draw their own version of a skilled trades career path, using Spanish or English labels depending on their skill level. You could also have bilingual students present part of the path in both languages.

### Kids Poster Series

*(Three posters depicting plumbing, HVAC, and electrical systems in a home.)*

**Display the three posters. For younger students (K-3), keep the language simple and engaging.**

**Ask:**

- “Where does the water in your sink come from?”
- “Where does the water go when you flush a toilet?”
- “What is the plumber/electrician/heating and cooling technician fixing?”
- “Have you ever seen someone fix something like this at home?”
- “How does your house stay the same temperature all year, even if it’s cooler or warmer outside?”

**Optional Activity:** Let students take turns pointing to parts of the house where the tradesperson is working. Ask them to draw their own house and include one of the tradespeople helping inside.

### 3 Step Three: Connect to the Classroom (3 min)

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Display or hand out the 'From School to the Skilled Trades' handouts.

Ask:

- "What are some school subjects you like - like math, science, or computers?"
- "What math skills do you think you would use in plumbing, heating, cooling, or electrical?"
- "What surprised you about how school subjects connect to these careers?"
- "Can you guess how math or science is used in fixing a sink or wiring a light?"

Say:

"People who work in the trades use school subjects every day — like measuring with math, learning how things work with science, or using new technology. These careers are part of something called STEM — science, technology, engineering, and math!"

### 4 Step Four: Traits for the Trades (2 min)

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Display or hand out the 'Top 10 Traits of a Technician' handout.

Ask:

- "Which of these traits do you think you have?"
- "Can you think of a time you used one of these skills — like being a problem-solver or working with your hands?"
- "Do you like to build things or figure out how things work?"
- "Do any of your friends or family members have these traits?"

*Tip for younger students (K-3): Use picture examples or read the list aloud and ask them to raise their hands when they hear a trait that sounds like them.*

### 5 Optional Extension: STEM Spotlight (3 min)

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Display or hand out the STEM handouts.

Ask:

- "How do you think tools and technology have helped tradespeople?"
- "Why do you think the trades are considered STEM careers?"
- Give examples of how math, science, and technology are used in the trades.

**Optional Connection Activity:** Invite a local tradesperson (plumber, HVAC technician, or electrician) to talk about their job and show real tools.

### 6 Wrap-Up (1 min)

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**Say:** "Plumbers, electricians, and HVAC technicians are smart, skilled, and in demand. These are great jobs that help people every day. Keep your eyes open — you might find a future career you've never thought of before."