



**Part One—(30 minutes plus home assignment)**

- Following a unit in which students read biographies of great achievers or famous people, have them write a two paragraph composition about their own greatest achievement and the skills needed to accomplish it.
- Open discussion with a review of the achievements of the people they read about. List the achievements on the board.
- Give students a copy of the *Skills for a Lifetime* handout and review it.
- Ask students to identify some of the skills and personal qualities needed to accomplish the great achievements listed on the board. Write the skills and qualities on the board.
- Introduce the idea that each of us has achievements every day—some are small and some are great. Give a few examples. Share one of your own personal achievements.
- Ask students to share some of their personal achievements. List them on the board.
- Have students brainstorm the skills they needed for their own achievements.
- For homework, have students write a two paragraph composition about their greatest achievement in which they identify at least two skills and/or positive personal characteristics they needed in order to accomplish their achievement.

**Part Two—Career Development Connections (30 minutes)**

- Have students briefly discuss their greatest achievement and the skills and personal qualities needed to achieve it.
- Remind students that each of us is unique and has special abilities, skills, and qualities. Point out that these qualities are what make us successful in our personal lives, in our relationships with others, in school, and at work.
- Optional: The student's composition can serve as an artifact in a career portfolio.

**Crosswalks****SC Career Guidance Standard/Competency**

Learning to Work Standard 1. Students will understand the relationship among personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work.

Competency 1.3. Explore personal skills and talents.

**Key Employability Skills**

Communication Skills—Writing

Creative Thinking—Generates new ideas

Self-Esteem—Believes in self, has positive view of self

\* Adapted from *Career Development Tool Kit Grades 6-8*, Linda Kobylarz & Associates, 2000. Used with permission.

