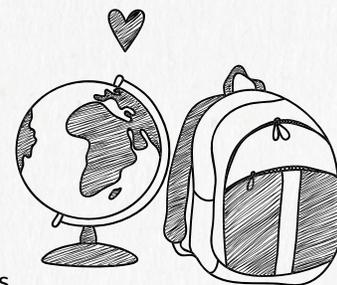


Activity 2

EDUCATIONAL ROI

To make a smart investment in your future, estimate the **ROI** – return on investment. This is simply the difference between what you invest and what you can expect to earn over the course of your career. Use the information in this chart to calculate the ROI for five different career options in the construction industry. To estimate lifetime earnings, multiply the average annual income by 40 years.



LIFETIME EARNINGS - COST OF EDUCATION = ROI					
Occupation	Required Education	Cost of Education ³	Average Annual Income	Lifetime Earnings (over 40 years)	Total ROI
Construction Carpenter	1 year apprenticeship	\$0	\$45,170	\$	\$
Civil Drafter	Associate's degree	\$7,140	\$52,870	\$	\$
Civil Engineer	Bachelor's degree	\$52,792	\$89,070	\$	\$
Urban Planner	Master's degree	\$90,000	\$71,490	\$	\$
Lawyer	Doctorate degree	\$167,076	\$125,250	\$	\$

Now answer these questions:

- How important do you think Return on Investment is when choosing a career? Why? _____

- Based on this chart, does more education always mean a greater return on investment? _____

- Taking into consideration the cost and time invested in education and the expected lifetime earnings for each occupation, which career would you select if you were making a decision today? Explain why. _____

- In addition to income, many careers also offer **benefits**. These can include health insurance and dental coverage, retirement plans and pensions, profit-sharing plans, stock options, and even gym membership. For many people, benefits like these are as important as income. How about you? Would you choose a lower paying job with great benefits over a higher paying job without benefits? Why or why not?

The average person will spend around 80,000 hours working in their career, so it's important to find work that is fulfilling and stimulating as well as financially rewarding. Some people call this the Emotional Return on Investment – the emotional investment may include doing rote tasks for a few years while you're in a junior position, working hard at soft skills like communication to help you succeed, and other non-financial investments that you make. The return, or reward, will be achieving success in your chosen field, whether that means climbing the professional ladder to a leadership role, making a difference in others' lives, or solving complex STEM problems. Success looks different for everyone; the key is to find what motivates you.

³www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/what-you-need-to-know-about-college-tuition-costs