



Seeking Employment

BUILDING BLOCK FOR SUCCESS - reusable across all programs

Applies to: Cosmetology, Barbering, Esthetics, and Nail Technology

Suggested time: 2.5 hours (theory and a mock interview)

How to use this plan: The lines under "Say" are scripted word for word so every class hears the same information - read them aloud. *Italic in brackets is what you do.* The jade "Teaching move" names the method; the "Students" line is their involvement.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify the types of salon employment and find the right fit.
- Prepare a professional resume and a portfolio of work.
- Demonstrate interview skills and professional follow-up.
- Understand pay structures and employer expectations.

Materials and Equipment

- SGS chapter slide deck, projector, and whiteboard
- Resume template and checklist handout
- Mock-interview question cards
- Student workbook or chapter handout

Key Terms

resume, portfolio, cover letter, references, interview, networking, professional brand, commission, booth rental, salary, work ethic.

Lesson Sequence

1. Opening Hook - 10 min

Teaching move: *Frame job-hunting as a learnable skill.*

SAY (read aloud):

Soon you are going to graduate, and you are going to want a great first job. Here is the good news: the salon is looking for you, too - good professionals are always in demand. But getting hired is a skill, just like cutting, and most people were never taught it. Today we learn how to find the right place and land the job.

- **Students:** describe the kind of place they would love to work.

2. Know What You Want - 15 min

Teaching move: *Connect to their career vision from day one.*

SAY (read aloud):

Before you apply anywhere, know what you are looking for. Salons differ - some pay a salary, some pay commission, a percentage of what you bring in, and some rent you a booth to run your own small business. They also differ in culture, training, and clientele. Think back to the career vision you wrote on day one and



look for the place that moves you toward it. The right fit matters as much as the offer.

- **Students:** name which pay structure fits their goals and why.

3. Your Resume and Portfolio - 20 min

Teaching move: Show a sample; make it concrete.

SAY (read aloud):

Two things get you in the door: your resume and your portfolio. *[Show the sample resume.]* A resume is a clean, one-page summary of your training, skills, and experience, with references ready. A portfolio is the proof - photos of your best work, before-and-afters, styles you are proud of. Build it as you go through school, because employers want to see what you can actually do.

- **Students:** list three things they will put on their resume and in their portfolio.

4. The Interview - 20 min

Teaching move: Tell-show-do with a mock interview.

SAY (read aloud):

Now the interview. You prepare by researching the salon, you dress the part, and you arrive early. In the room, you make eye contact, you answer confidently, and you ask good questions - that shows real interest. Bring your kit and your portfolio. *[Run a brief mock interview, you as the owner.]* Watch how this is handled, then you will practice it.

Some salons will ask you to do a practical, so be ready to demonstrate your skills calmly and safely - your infection control habits are watched here too.

- **Students:** observe the mock interview, then note one thing the candidate did well.

5. After the Interview - 10 min

Teaching move: The follow-up most people skip.

SAY (read aloud):

Most people stop at the interview - you will not. Afterward, send a short, professional thank-you. Keep your online presence clean and professional, because employers look. And keep networking - many jobs come from who you know and the impression you leave. Your professional brand is everything people experience of you, online and in person.

- **Students:** draft one sentence of a thank-you message.

6. Activity - Mock Interview - 15 min

Teaching move: Practice in pairs.

SAY (read aloud):

Now you practice. *[Pair up and hand out the question cards.]* One of you is the salon owner asking the questions on the card; the other is the candidate. Run a short interview, then switch. Give each other one piece of honest feedback.

- **Students:** complete a mock interview as both candidate and interviewer, then give feedback.

7. Check and Recap - 10 min

Teaching move: Recall and motivate.



SAY (read aloud):

Quick check. Name the three salon pay structures. *[Pause.]* Salary, commission, booth rental. What do you bring to an interview? *[Pause.]* Your resume, your portfolio, and your kit. To recap: know what you want, build your resume and portfolio, interview with confidence, and follow up. You have the skills - now you know how to get the job.

- **Students:** state the first salon type they will apply to and why.

Assessment

- Performance: mock interview using the SGS interview checklist.
- Product: a draft resume and a portfolio plan.
- Written: quiz on employment types and interview steps.

Assignment

Read the Seeking Employment chapter and complete the workbook. Draft your one-page resume and list five pieces for your portfolio.

Instructor Notes and Safety

Connect back to the career vision from Industry History & Career Paths.

Remind students their infection-control habits are evaluated in any working interview.