

As Seen On Public Television



3 KEYS TO

SUCCESS



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Video Page



3 Keys to Success

Teacher's Guide

This Teacher's Guide includes the following:

- Suggested Lesson Plan
- Preview Questions
- Key Terms
- Viewing Guide
- Discussion Questions
- Activity: Who Chooses
- Quiz
- Enrichment and Integration Activities
- Worksheet: How Educational Level Impacts Salary/Wages
- Answer Key

Suggested Lesson Plan

These materials may be used in a variety of ways. For maximum benefit, we suggest the following lesson plan:

- As a class, discuss the Preview Questions and Key Terms.
- Distribute copies of the Viewing Guide for students to use as a note-taking tool during the video.
- Play the video, pausing if needed to facilitate understanding and note-taking.
- Review and discuss answers to the Viewing Guide using Answer Key as a guide.
- Use Discussion Questions to spark class discussion, or assign these questions as homework.
- As a class or in small groups, complete the Who Chooses Activity.
- Replay the video as preparation for the Quiz.
- Administer and grade the Quiz using Answer Key as a guide.
- Optional: Assign one or more Enrichment Activities as homework.

3 Keys to Success

Preview Questions

(These are meant to be read aloud by the teacher.)

1. How would you define success?
2. What does it take to become successful?
3. What do you think the three keys to success are?
4. What are some obstacles to success?

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Key Terms and Definitions

Cathartic – providing mental & emotional relief through the open expression of strong emotions

GED – General Educational Development (GED) tests are a group of four subject tests which, when passed, provide certification that the test taker has American or Canadian high school-level academic skills. States and jurisdictions award a Certificate of High School Equivalency or similarly titled credential to persons who meet the passing score requirements.

Inexplicable – difficult or impossible to explain

NPR – National Public Radio. The radio equivalent of PBS (Public Broadcast Service) television. NPR has a focus on news and educational programming.

Social scientist – someone who studies society and the relationships among individuals within a society. The main social sciences are economics, political science, human geography, demography, psychology and sociology.

Transition – v. to move from one state or stage to another.

Vocational training – training for a particular job or trade, with a focus on practical knowledge and hands-on skills

Name: _____

Date: _____

3 Keys to Success **Viewing Guide**

1. The first key to success? ..._____.
2. Richard ended up in Riker's Prison...for..._____ years.
3. Education became Richard's _____ to a better life.
4. Monique...is raising her children to _____ education, and not to follow in her footsteps.
5. Isabel Sawhill...has made a lifelong study of _____.
6. Very few college educated women have children outside of _____.
7. _____ of all children in America right now...are born outside of marriage.
8. Using condoms, at the end of a 5-year period your chances of getting pregnant are _____.
9. Single parents are 4 to 5 times more likely to stay trapped in _____ and need government assistance.
10. The third key to success is simple: _____.
11. Richard studied tirelessly for his _____ licensing exam.
12. If you _____ from high school, if you _____ full-time, and if you didn't have _____ until you were in a stable, two-parent family the poverty rate would fall to 2%.
13. An opportunity for _____ may be the opening that Monique needs.
14. These three keys to success will give you a 98% chance of avoiding poverty: _____

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Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Richard dropped out of school? Do you know people who have dropped out? What were their reasons? How did dropping out work out for them?
2. For Richard, what do you think the connection was between dropping out of school and getting involved in crime? Did one cause the other, or was it more complicated?
3. What was life like for Richard in prison?
4. What did Richard do while he was in prison that helped turn his life around?
5. How could Richard have gone to school for so many years and still not have learned to read or write?
6. Why does Richard now place such importance on education, literacy, and building his vocabulary? Why didn't he do so when he was in school?
7. Why do you think education is the first key to success?
8. Why is Monique raising her children to value education, even though she didn't finish school herself?
9. How does education correlate with single parenthood, according to Isabel Sawhill?
10. Why is it a problem that 50% of children in America are born outside marriage?
11. When a child is born outside of marriage, who is responsible for supporting that child?
12. Which type of contraceptive is most effective? Which is least effective?
13. Why is avoiding single parenthood the second key to success?
14. What does the narrator mean by "the single parent trap"?
15. How do out-of-wedlock births affect the lives of the fathers?

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Discussion Questions

16. Why are single parents far more likely to end up stuck in poverty and living on government assistance?
17. How are the first and second keys to success connected?
18. Why is working full time the third key to success?
19. How does following the first two keys to success make the third key much easier to achieve?
20. Why would anyone choose single parenthood, knowing it would make them 4-5 times more likely to get stuck in poverty?
21. Why do you think young people often focus on the short-term rather than the long-term?
22. How could we reduce our nation's poverty rate from 15% to 2% of the population?
23. The three keys to success are simple. But are they easy? Discuss.
24. How much control do you have over whether you follow the advice in the video?
25. What obstacles could get in the way of your following the three keys? How can you avoid or overcome those obstacles?
26. What does success mean to you? What steps can you take to work toward success?

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Activity:

Who chooses? Who benefits? Who pays? What's fair?

[These four questions can be a useful tool for evaluating any policy or system. Posing the questions is a great way to stimulate critical thinking.]

As a class, or in small groups, discuss the following:

(For each question, think broadly about all the possible people or groups of people who may be affected, and remember there may be non-monetary costs and benefits.)

What three things do people need to do to stay out of poverty, according to the video? How much choice do you have over whether you end up doing these things?

What choices can people make so they are more likely to stay in school, to find a happy marriage, to avoid out-of-wedlock births, and to find a job?

What circumstances, if any, reduce people's ability to do these things?

What circumstances, if any, make people less likely to do these things? Does that mean people don't have a choice in the matter? Explain.

If someone expects his or her choices not to matter, what kinds of choices is that person likely to make? If someone expects choices to matter greatly, what kinds of choices is that person likely to make? Why do these expectations matter in making these choices?

Who benefits when someone chooses to follow the three keys to success? Who pays? Who benefits, who pays, when someone doesn't follow the three keys? Discuss each key.

Costs don't always involve money. In economics, the concept of opportunity cost means that for every choice, the cost is the next best alternative, or the option that is given up. When someone chooses to stay in school and avoid single parenthood, what are the opportunity costs of those choices? Do the benefits outweigh the costs? Who can decide this? Can someone else make these choices for you if they think they know better? Should they be allowed to?

Name: _____

Date: _____

3 Keys to Success **Quiz**

1. How long was Richard in prison for robbery?
 - A) a year
 - B) two years
 - C) ten years
 - D) twenty years

2. In prison, Richard saved up to buy _____.
 - A) contraband
 - B) books
 - C) a radio
 - D) a gun

3. What do Richard and Monique have in common?
 - A) They both went to prison.
 - B) They both dropped out of school.
 - C) They are both single parents.
 - D) They were both drug addicts.

4. Isabel Sawhill is an expert on _____ at the Brookings Institution.
 - A) single parenthood
 - B) homelessness
 - C) prison reform
 - D) drug abuse

5. Which birth control method is most likely to result in pregnancy?
 - A) condoms
 - B) the Pill
 - C) an IUD or implant
 - D) none of the above; they are all equally effective

3 Keys to Success Quiz

6. _____ of children in America today are born to single parents.
- A) 2%
 - B) 15%
 - C) 50%
 - D) 63%
7. The three keys to success are _____.
- A) Delay having children, work full time, and go to college.
 - B) Get an education, don't become a single parent, and find full-time work.
 - C) Get a college degree, work full time, and avoid having children.
 - D) Get an education, use birth-control, and work full time.
8. If everyone followed the three keys to success, the poverty rate in America would _____.
- A) be zero
 - B) drop from 15% to 2%
 - C) drop from 50% to 15%
 - D) be unchanged
9. What has made it hard for Monique to find work?
- A) Lack of education
 - B) Criminal record
 - C) Lack of motivation
 - D) Going to school full time
10. Richard is now a licensed _____.
- A) prison guard
 - B) hair stylist
 - C) home health aide
 - D) exterminator
11. What is the hardest thing about the three keys to success?

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Enrichment and Integration Activities

1. **Group project: Problem solving.** Divide the class into three groups, and assign each group one of the three keys to success. Have each group come up with a list of potential obstacles to achieving their assigned key to success. Bring the class back together and have a representative from each group list their obstacles on the board. Then have a class discussion asking students to suggest strategies for overcoming each obstacle. Working individually, each student should then write a short essay outlining the strategies they think will best enable them to stick to the three keys to success.
2. **Consumer math/Technology: Budgeting.** Working in small groups, use Excel or another spreadsheet program to create a budget detailing all of the costs of raising a baby for one year. Be sure to include one-time expenses such as crib and car seat as well as ongoing expenses like diapers and formula. Research prices online to find out the typical cost of each item. What is the total cost for the year? As a class, compare and discuss each group's results. What accounts for the differences? Now do online research to find expert estimates of the cost of a baby's first year, and compare these with the budgets created by your class. At what point do you think most people are ready for the financial responsibilities that come with having a child? Discuss.
3. **Consumer math/Technology: Budgeting.** Use a spreadsheet program to create a budget for living on your own for one year. Be sure to include housing, transportation, food, paper products, toiletries, clothing, utilities, cell phone, taxes and insurance. Research prices online and/or shop in local stores to find out how much each item typically costs in your area. How much would you need to earn before taxes in order to enable you to live on your own? As a class, compare and discuss your individual budgets, and make changes if needed to make your budget more realistic.
4. **Essay Writing: Success.** Think of a successful person in your life (not a celebrity, but someone you know personally) for the subject of your essay. Why do you consider that person a success? How did he or she achieve success? Is this someone you would consider to be a role model for yourself or other young people? Why or why not? Did he/she follow the three keys outlined in the video? If not, how was the person able to become successful despite such setbacks? What do you think about the choices he or she has made so far in life? What can you learn from them and apply in your own life?
5. **Writing: Interview.** Find someone who dropped out of high school, someone who became a single parent, someone who relies on government assistance instead of working full-time, or someone who has spent time in prison. Interview them to learn more about their story, why they made the choices they did, how their choices affected their lives, and whether they have any regrets. Ask questions to find out to what extent they believe things that happen to them are the result of outside forces and to what extent they believe they have control over the direction of their lives.

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Enrichment and Integration Activities

6. **Research: Wages and education.** Research to find out more about the correlation between wages and education. What are the average wages for each level of educational attainment? What are the differences expressed as percentages? How much do these differences add up to over a person's working life? How do unemployment rates compare across education levels? Write a report summarizing your findings. Be sure to include visual aids such as charts and graphs. (See <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> for suggested resources.) Which level of education are you aiming for? <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> may be helpful for this research. See also the worksheet on the page that follows.
7. **Research: Work and poverty.** Find out more about the correlation between work and poverty. How many households in the U.S. are below the poverty line? How many of those have no full-time workers? How many have one full-time worker? How many have two or more full-time workers? Look for data that divides U.S. households into five groups, or quintiles, according to income. For each quintile, what is the average number of full-time workers in the typical household? What conclusions can you draw about work and poverty? Create a research report using PowerPoint.
8. **Research: Out-of-wedlock births.** How have out-of-wedlock birth rates in the U.S. changed over the last 75 years? What are some causes of this change? What are some effects? How does being raised by a single parent affect a child's chances at success when they grow up? Research to find out how outcomes such as low educational achievement, criminality, and poverty compare between children raised by two parents and those raised by a single parent, regardless of family income. Write a report summarizing your findings. What conclusions can you draw about the impact of single parenthood on children?
9. **Class project: Egg baby.** Find instructions online for how to conduct an "egg baby" project, or use dolls for a similar project, in which each student is responsible for caring for his or her "baby" for a specified length of time, as if it were a real baby. Set class rules for how infractions such as leaving babies unattended or failing to take care of their needs will affect a student's grade. Have students track their activities and interactions with their babies for the duration of the project. Students should also write about their experience in journals. At the end of the project, assign grades and conduct a class discussion to allow students to share what they have learned.

Name _____

Date _____

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How Educational Level Impacts Salary/Wages

Research the amount of education needed and the salaries for the given occupations below. Use <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> to help. Choose several other occupations to research. Does your research support the idea that education is important in how much you make? Why or why not? Why would jobs/careers that require more education pay more than those that don't?

Job Title	Education Needed	Average Salary/Wage
Registered Nurse (RN)		
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)		
Nurse Practitioner		
Home Health Aide		
Doctor (Physician)		
Physician Assistant		
Short order cook		
Chef		
Veterinarian		
Veterinarian Technician		
Veterinarian Assistant		

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Viewing Guide Answer Key

1. education
2. 20
3. first step
4. value
5. single parenthood
6. marriage
7. 50%
8. 63%
9. poverty
10. work
11. pest control
12. graduated; worked; children
13. vocational training
14. Stay in school; get an education.
Avoid single parenting.
Find full-time work.

Quiz Answer Key

1. D) twenty years
2. C) a radio
3. B) They both dropped out of school.
4. A) single parenthood
5. A) condoms
6. C) 50%
7. B) Get an education, don't become a single parent, and find full-time work.
8. B) drop from 15% to 2%
9. A) Lack of education
10. D) exterminator

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How Educational Level Impacts Salary/Wages Answer Key

Note that these figures were taken from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> in Oct. 2016. These figures will likely change, so seek updated figures from that website for the most accurate information.

Job Title	Education Needed	Average Salary/Wage
Registered Nurse (RN)	Bachelor's Degree	\$67,490 year / \$32.45 hour
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	Postsecondary nondegree award	\$43,170 year / \$20.76 hour
Nurse Practitioner	Master's Degree	\$104,740 year / \$50.36 hour
Home Health Aide	No formal educational credential needed	\$21,920 year / \$10.54 hour
Doctor (Physician)	Doctoral/professional degree + internship & residency	\$187,200 year / \$90.00 hour
Physician Assistant	Master's Degree	\$98,180 year / \$47.20 hour
Short order cook	None (on the job training)	\$21,720 year / \$10.44 hour
Chef	HS Diploma or GED	\$41,500 year / \$19.95 hour
Veterinarian	Doctoral/professional degree	\$88,490 year / \$42.54 hour
Veterinarian Technician	Associate's Degree	\$31,800 year / \$15.29 hour
Veterinarian Assistant	HS Diploma or GED, some on-the-job training	\$24,360 year / \$11.71 hour

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