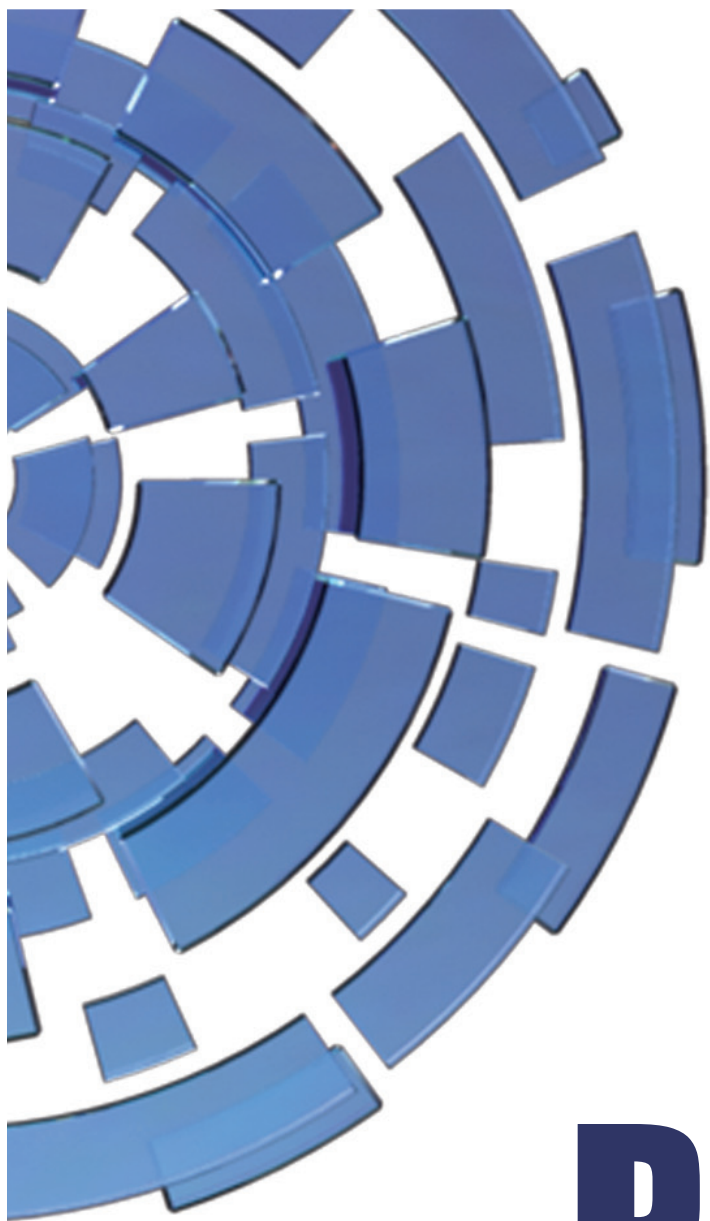


Introduction



Perspectives

Getting an inside look at post-secondary



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Introduction

Welcome to Perspectives

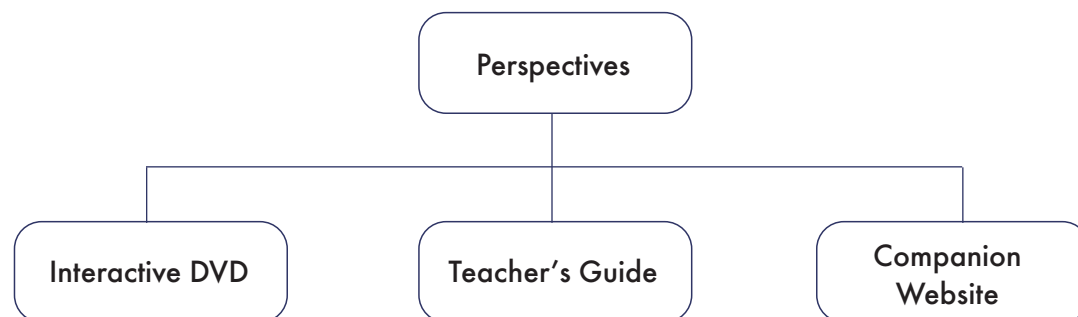
Perspectives is a dynamic and interactive teacher-student resource intended to fit within Planning 10 classes in British Columbia high schools. The overall objective of this combined resource is to provide exciting and relevant information delivered by youth who have experienced the post-secondary world. The complete resource package consists of an interactive DVD, featuring interviews with youth representing a variety of post-secondary education pathways, a Teacher's Guide, and a companion Website (www.bc-perspectives.ca). Together these three components allow students to learn from "real people," and begin to think about and plan for their own future.

The combined resource is designed to engage youth and build positive attitudes toward four overarching and interrelated themes:

- 1) Post-secondary education provides a very high return on investment.
- 2) You can do it.
- 3) The financial resources are available.
- 4) It is important to begin exploring your options now.

Perspectives on Pedagogy

The three components are designed with a consistent look to form a comprehensive teacher resource dedicated to promoting youth exploration and planning for post-secondary education (PSE).



A major objective of this package is to emphasize financial considerations, planning and resources. However, this resource is deliberately designed to enable teachers to engage students in meaningful dialogues on the full spectrum of PSE related experience. Perspectives is based on the philosophy that it is necessary first to engage youth by helping them to glimpse their future potential, then provide them with the tools, processes, and encouragement needed to plot that future. Teachers will find that the DVD interviews breathe life into financial matters by using the words of youth as they discuss PSE in their everyday experience.

Resource Overview

The Perspectives interactive DVD represents the core classroom resource. There are two DVDs containing three separate components. The first DVD, called Profiles, consists of interviews with 18 individuals, most of whom were currently in school at the time of the interviews. The second DVD reorganizes the interview material by theme to create “mini-movies,” as well as providing interviewee responses to common myths and misperceptions about PSE.

Disc 1 - Exploring Themes & Shattering Myths

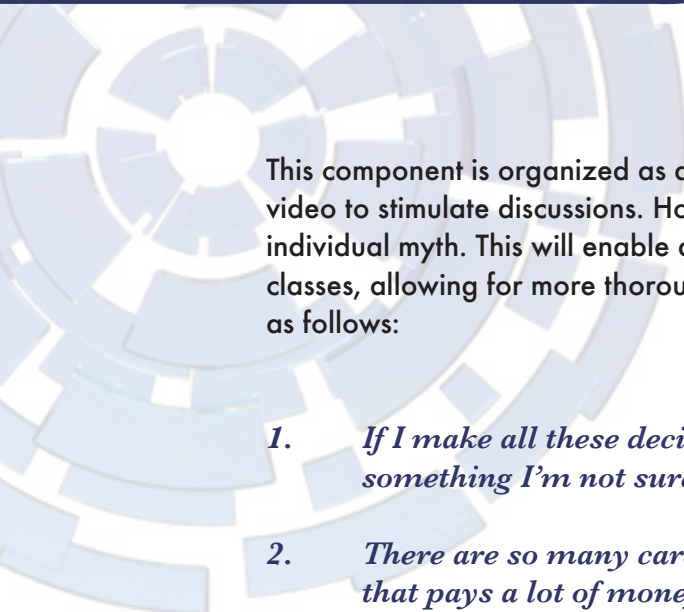
This section uses existing interview comments reorganized into eight themes. The themes correspond to the question categories so that each plays as a continuous mini-movie of responses concerning that theme. Thus, the Funding Theme represents a collection of interviewee responses to the set of nine questions concerning funding. Note, however, that the themes contain an edited collection of responses and therefore, do not contain all 18 responses to any given question. The Exploring Themes DVD is the primary tool for classroom implementation. The bulk of the Lesson Plans use this disc as the basis for their development.

Themes

- Choices
- Funding
- Saving
- Budgeting
- Expectations
- Reality
- Student Life
- Reflections

Shattering Myths

One of the key objectives of Perspectives is to address many of the common myths or stereotypical views surrounding PSE. All interviewees were asked to respond to share their perspective on at least one of 11 myths.



This component is organized as a “play all” feature so that it can be played as a class video to stimulate discussions. However, it is also organized to be accessible by individual myth. This will enable a teacher to present the material in multiple classes, allowing for more thorough class discussions. The 11 myth statements are as follows:

1. *If I make all these decisions about my future now, I will be locked into something I’m not sure about.*
2. *There are so many career choices available, I should just choose one that pays a lot of money.*
3. *Post-secondary education is just like high school. It’s going to be more of the same.*
4. *Post-secondary institutions only care about marks.*
5. *Post-secondary institutions are big, impersonal and scary places.*
6. *I can earn as much money starting work now as I would if I went to school and began working later... And I won’t have any debt!*
7. *University is better than college. College is better than the trades.*
8. *A Bachelor’s degree in the Liberal Arts won’t get me anywhere in life.*
9. *You have to be an A student to get any kind of scholarship or bursary.*
10. *My parents can’t afford to pay for my education, so I have no hope of coming up with the money.*
11. *Only certain types of people go to post-secondary education.*

The Profiles DVD enables teachers and students to select and present individual interviews, providing a “virtual” guest speaker resource that can be used in a variety of ways.

Disc 2 - Profiles

The interviews, which range in length from 10 to 16 minutes, are based on a structured set of questions asked of all interviewees. Table 1 (following page) summarizes the mix of PSE pathways represented.

Table 1: PSE Pathways

	In-School	Graduates	Total
Trades	3	1	4
College	4	2	6
University	7	1	8
Total	14	4	18

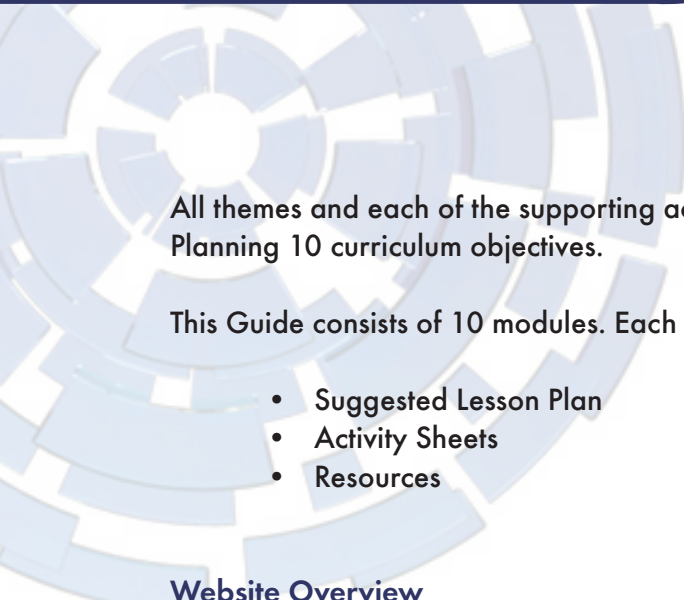
The interviews cover eight categories of questions divided into four broad sections, as follows:

- 1. Choices**
- 2. Financial**
 - a. Funding
 - b. Savings
 - c. Budgeting
- 3. PSE Experience**
 - a. Expectations
 - b. Reality
 - c. Student Life
- 4. Reflections**

Profiles is designed to be interactive. Students can watch an entire interview (“play all”) or they can scroll through and select any one of the eight categories and listen to an individual’s responses to that category only.

Lesson Plan Overview

Perspectives is designed to be extremely flexible, utilizing a modular design and providing teachers the ability to select individual modules to meet their needs or to deliver the content as a continuous program of learning. This resource includes 10 Lesson Plans incorporating a range of group and individual activities.



All themes and each of the supporting activities are designed to support the British Columbia Planning 10 curriculum objectives.

This Guide consists of 10 modules. Each module includes:

- Suggested Lesson Plan
- Activity Sheets
- Resources

Website Overview

www.bc-perspectives.ca

Perspectives includes a dedicated Website (www.bc-perspectives.ca). This site is designed to provide support materials for teachers, students, and may eventually include a parent component.

For teachers, the Website will provide three key functionalities:

- Ready access to downloadable copies of Lesson Plans and Activity Sheets.
- Supporting research and links to other useful websites and resources.
- Bulletin Board for teachers to list (and find) comments and helpful suggestions concerning materials and / or approaches that other teachers have found particularly helpful.

The Website student pages will serve similar functions. The two key functionalities for students are:

- In the future it may be possible that all 18 interviews will be accessible on the site. This will enable students to view interviews that interest them or that are part of a teacher assignment, on their own schedule.
- Statistical reports, research papers and links to other tools and resources are conveniently located and described in one location.

One of the major benefits of the Website for both teachers and students is that site content can be readily updated to reflect changing information and product improvements.