Challenges for Generation Y
Many Would Like to be in School or Working

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There are almost seven million young people (between the ages of 16 and 24) who are not in school and do not work. According to a recent study, the majority of these young people would like to be working full time or receiving education or training so that they can find a job. What can you learn about this population by studying the two charts on these two pages?

BEFORE READING CHART 1: Conduct a survey in your community or school about why it might be hard to go to college. See <www.nelrc.org/changeagent/extras> for a sample survey. Compare your results with those in the chart below.

**Chart 1: What Young People Say is Making it Hard for Them to Attend College or Technical School This Year**

- Unsure about career so no point in going to school
- No one explained how to apply or figure out how to pay
- Don’t meet application requirement (grades, GED)
- Didn’t enjoy high school/more interested in work
- Need to work and can’t balance work and school
- Don’t have transportation
- Need to make money to take care of family
- Cost is unaffordable

AFTER READING CHART 1: What is your experience with these barriers? Discuss both individual and public solutions to these problems.

What’s Age Got to Do with It?

**Chart 2: The Top Three Things Young People Spend Time on Each Day**

- Attending community activities or club events
- Volunteering in the community
- Playing sports
- Studying or trying to get back to school
- Taking care of child or other family member
- Partying
- Looking for work
- Watching TV or playing video games
- Using the Internet
- Hanging out with friends

AFTER READING CHART 2: How do the barriers identified in Chart 1 help us understand the way people are spending their time?

**Multiple Choice Quiz**

1. **According to Chart 1, it is clear that:**
   a) Young people like to hang out with their friends.
   b) More than 50% don’t have transportation.
   c) Economic barriers are a primary reason why it’s hard for young people to go to college.
   d) Young people have a bad attitude about school and work.

2. **A reasonable conclusion to draw from Chart 2 is:**
   a) Young people like to hang out with their friends.
   b) Almost 40% included “looking for work” as one of the top 3 things they do each day.
   c) Young people have a lot of screen time each day.
   d) All of the above.

*Multiple choice questions like these appear on the GED test. Practice writing your own questions about these charts or other content in the magazine. Share them with your class.*