

BOOK OR STREET SMARTS?

Aim: Give Ss practice discussing pros and cons.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every S.

Materials: None

Plan

- As a warm-up, ask the class: “Which is more important for success: education or experience?” Elicit answers and reasons.
- Give each S a worksheet.
- Focus Ss’ attention on the pictures. Discuss the questions. (Answers: Donald Trump works in real estate. He’s a college graduate. Queen Latifah works with music and movies. She attended high school. Steven Spielberg works with movies. He’s a college dropout.)

Prepare

A

- Divide the class into small groups.
- As a class, brainstorm fields (e.g., *music, medicine, sports, law, media, computers, banking, business*).
- Explain the task. Groups choose one field. Then each S chooses a person in the field.
- Outside of class, Ss research the questions.

B

- Have Ss compare their information and discuss the questions in the next class. If necessary, explain or elicit the meaning of *book smarts* (having knowledge from studying in school) and *street smarts* (having knowledge from life experience).

Present

- Divide the class into two teams: Education and Experience.
- Have a class debate.

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Plan

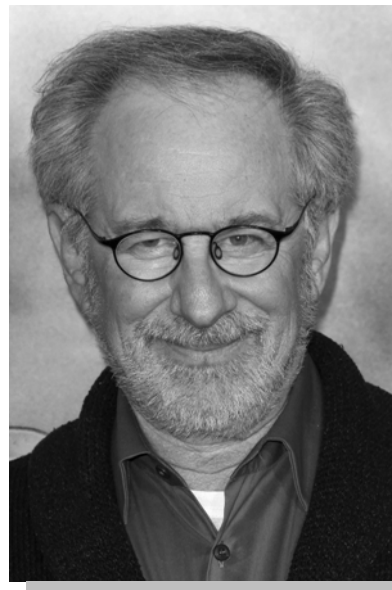
Look at the pictures. What field is each person in? What do you know about their level of education?



Donald Trump



Queen Latifah



Steven Spielberg

Prepare

A GROUP WORK Choose a field of work or study. Then each student chooses a well-known person in this field. Use these questions and your own questions to research the person.

Did the person attend a university? Did he or she graduate?

How long did he or she study?

What was his or her major?

What did he or she learn outside of a classroom? Where did he or she learn it?

B GROUP WORK Discuss these questions. Based on your findings, do you think “book smarts” or “street smarts” are more important for success?

How was the person’s education important for success?

Did his or her choice of major make a difference?

Did the person succeed because of experience outside of a classroom?
If so, how?

Present

CLASS ACTIVITY Have a debate. Team A argues that education is more important. Team B argues that experience is more important. Use your research to support your argument. Try to convince the other team that you’re right!