



The Benefits of Working

Reading, discussion, worksheet, pair share (45 min):

Materials: Copies of "Rush Hour at Macy's" from the Stories section; copies of "What's in It for Me?" worksheet; pens; whiteboard or flipchart; markers

I. Read the story and discuss (25 min)

Pass out copies of "Rush Hour at Macy's," from the Stories section of the website, and ask for teen volunteers to take turns reading the story aloud. Pause to ask questions whenever you feel there's a line or passage that's ripe for discussion.

Then ask the group:

- Besides the money, what do you think made the job worthwhile for Sharif?
- How would it feel to work at a job where money is your only motivation?
- What other factors would make a job feel worthwhile to you?

II. What's in It for Me? Pair work and discussion (20 min)

Ask participants to work with a partner to complete the worksheet "What's in It for Me?" They will go through the story and list the benefits to *the author* of having his job. Then, they will circle the benefits on the list that also apply to *them*.

Finally, they will create a list of benefits they hope to get from their job, such as learning to work with people from different backgrounds, or improving their punctuality. (If students are not currently working, ask them to imagine what they'd like to get out of their first or their next job.) Give the pairs about 10 minutes to work on this.

When time is up, ask the pairs to share with the large group. First, discuss the benefits to Sharif. Then ask participants to share the benefits they expect to gain from their own work experience. If they aren't mentioned, be sure to elicit benefits like:

- experience to put on a resume
- making friends
- building skills like typing, filing, copying, or working with groups
- developing patience (especially for those working with children or in customer service)
- building relationships with coworkers and employers who may help them in the future (networking)
- learning about themselves (what they like and don't like, what they're good at).

