

Career Exploration Research Paper

The goal of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to explore in detail a career of your choice. The paper should be 5-8 pages in length and double-spaced. In order to prepare to write this report, you should first complete several informal assessments. We will do some of these in class and you may want to do more on Eureka. A visit to the Career Center on East Campus is highly recommended as preparation for this paper. If you cannot decide on a career to research please make an appointment to talk with me (575 7721) and I'll help you.

Use the Researching Careers handout to find your information. Then follow the outline provided below in order to achieve all the credit available.

Part 1: Introduction: Personal Assessment.

In the introductory section of your paper, explain how you came to decide on this career for your research. Did someone inspire you to follow this career path? Are specific personality types or skills required for this career? Using the results of the Myers Briggs (or the Do What You Are assessment), the Strong and the values and interests exercises we completed in class, outline why you think this career is a match for your personality, interests and values. If you aren't sure, try to think of what draws you to this career. If you like, here is the place where you might describe your fantasy career. The career you chose to research may or may not live up to parts of your ideal.

Part 2: Requirements for entry into your career.

In this section, detail the education, experience, licenses and skills necessary for the career. Most of this information may be located via Eureka, but also check the Bureau of Labor Statistics to make sure there is a need for you in the future! From your interviews with people in the field you should also get the unwritten rules of entry into this profession. What majors are recommended? What are related occupations for this career?

Part 3: Describe the job.

Describe a day in the life of a member of your career. Are there different career paths you might take? Include physical environment, time schedule, location, salary and benefits. Interview someone employed in this field currently. What do they like and dislike about their job? What advice would they give you? What do you think you will like and dislike about this occupation? What is the typical pay? (Try to find the most up to date local information.) What is the job outlook? Can you locate a current job advertisement? (Attach it to your paper in an appendix.) What is the job outlook? What are the growth opportunities?

Part 4: Describe the Profession Today.

You may want to include a brief history of your career choice here. What are some **current** issues or changes in this field? What are the concerns of people in your career today. You will need to find professional journals related to your

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profession or interview someone. Please discuss at least two issues. How will employment trends discussed in Chapter 9 impact your chosen field?

Part 5: From here to there.

What do you need to do to get from MJC to this career? Outline the steps you will take including specifics on transfer institutions and possible employers. What colleges offer the required major? Who are the big employers in this field? Will you have to move? What are the major obstacles you anticipate and how will you overcome them? What are some resources you can use to assist you get there? Mention some professional associations you could join while still a student.

Part 6: Works Cited.

For every resource you use, provide a citation in MLA format. (Author. Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date or "Bookkeeping." EUREKA. EUREKA, 2009. Web. 17 Sept. 2011.)

Each source should be cited in the body of your paper also. This is not a bibliography! Please see the sample MLA paper. Be sure to follow the correct format for print versus online sources. The example below is the same source but one student used the book in the Career Center and the other accessed it online.

United States. Dept. of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Librarians." Occupational Outlook Handbook. Library ed. Washington: GPO, 2011. 266-269. Print.

"Librarians." Occupational Outlook Handbook. 2010-11 ed. United States. Dept. of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 18 Dec. 2007. Web. 20 Sept. 2009.

You will need at least **five** resources. Many of these will be online databases, but at the very least one should be a book or encyclopedia. Another should consist of a professional journal in your field and one source may be an interview with an individual currently employed in your area. Do not use wikipedia! **This section is crucial! Your paper will be returned without a grade if you do not include Part 5.**

*Good Luck! I hope you gain some valuable insight into the career of your choice. If you need help please use your resources! These include me, the **Career Center, Tutoring Center, the Library, the Writing Center and your classmates.***