

Career Exploration

Physical Science and Technology

This activity will walk you through the process of examining different careers. While you do not need to make any final decisions at your age, it is always a good idea to keep your options open. Knowing what types of jobs you're interested in will help you make good decisions in high school that will allow you to narrow in on a particular career type as you get older.

You will document your work in a Microsoft Word document. Include all **information requested in bold**. When you are done, have an instructor look over your work, then print it and turn it into the inbox.

Step I: Budget

Using the following website, <http://monthlyexpensecalculator.com/>, come up with an approximate estimate of your salary needs. The numbers provided are rough averages; you should make adjustments that you think will fit your lifestyle. For many of the entries, you might just need to guess (for example, some of the entries will refer to things you haven't learned about yet!).

- 1. Question: What is your target monthly salary? What would that be each year (multiply by 12)?**

Step II: Career descriptions

Using the following website, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>, examine careers that you think fit your interests and income needs. Try to find at least five different careers that you think might be interesting and financially rewarding. It's OK if you don't have any idea what you'd like to do – look around and explore some different ideas.

For the *most interesting career* you found, answer the following questions:

- 2. What is the name of the career you are investigating?**
- 3. What sort of work would you do?**
- 4. How much money can you expect to make each year?**
- 5. What sort of educational requirements (high school and beyond) are required for this career?**

Step III: Analysis

Go back to your budget. Based on the expected salary of the career you found most interesting, make revisions (down or up!) to various budget categories.

Answer the following **questions**:

- 6. Did your favorite career provide a large enough salary to support your initial budget? If not, which budget categories did you decide to reduce?**
- 7. How did reading about the different careers help you think about what you will need to do in school (high school and after)? What classes do you suppose you would need to take in order to maximize your chances at success in your favorite career?**