

Career Exploration

Physical Science and Technology

This activity will walk you through the process of examining different careers for another student in your class, and evaluating your own career interests. 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 Google Docs document. Include all **information requested in bold**. When you are done, have an instructor look over your work, then turn it in through Showbie.

Step I: Interview

You will work with a partner for this step. Each of you should take turns interviewing the other. Here are the questions you should ask your partner. **Type your partner's answers to each of these questions.** When it is your turn to answer the questions, be serious and thoughtful even if you are not sure or have not had a chance to think about these issues before.

1. **Type your partner's name. Your answers for questions 2- 8 will reflect your partner's career interests rather than your own.**
2. **Ask your partner: "What are three different jobs (careers) that you think you might be interested in pursuing?" Write down the three jobs your partner comes up with.**
3. **Ask your partner: "Which of those three jobs sounds the most interesting to you?" Write down the answer.**
4. **Ask your partner: "What about the most interesting job appeals to you the most? Try to think of at least 2-3 things about that career that draws you to it." Write down the answer.**

Step II: Career descriptions

Using the following website, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>, examine the careers that your partner picked. Answer the following questions:

5. **For EACH career, what can your partner expect to earn as a typical yearly salary? (Since there are three careers, you should have three salaries here – one for each career.)**
6. **For the job your partner found most interesting, click on the "What ... do" and describe in 2-3 sentences what people who choose this career do.**
7. **For the job your partner found most interesting click on the "How to Become ..." link and describe in 2-3 sentences what type of education will he or she need to pursue.**
8. **For the job your partner found most interesting click on the "Job Outlook" link and explain whether the number of jobs in this career area are expected to grow, stay the same, or shrink.**

Step III: Reflection

Share your document with your partner so he or she can look at your responses for questions 5-8. Look at the document your partner has shared with you and, based on the responses for questions 5-8 regarding your own career interests, answer the following questions:

- 9. Do the careers you are interested in provide salaries that you feel would support the kind of lifestyle you are hoping to lead (question 5)? If not, does this information make you feel less likely to seek out these careers? Be specific – identify which careers you think would work for you and which would not provide enough income.**
- 10. Look at what you would do for the career you are most interested in (question 6). Does this sound like what you had pictured when you first thought of that career? Describe the things that surprised you about what would be required for this job.**
- 11. Look at the educational requirements for the career you are most interested (question 7). Does this seem realistic to you? Based on this information, what are some classes you might want to take while you are in high school?**
- 12. Look at the job outlook for the career you are most interested in (question 8). Does it seem realistic that you will be able to get a job in this career? If it is highly competitive (i.e., few job openings or lots of people interested in the career – or both), are you willing to expend the time and energy that will be required in order to pursue this career? Explain your response.**