

Salaries can vary greatly depending on your degree, type of employment, and location; cost of living can also largely vary between different locations in the world. The goal of this project is to compare salaries and costs of living in different cities (within the US). You will complete this project in your assigned groups. Each group will do a summary presentation for the class; your group will be graded based on the summary presentation; a completed project essay (1 per group) will be submitted as well.

Part 1: Gathering Data

1. Each member of your group should decide what sort of career they want to have as well as a list of three cities in which they may be interested in living.
2. Using the Occupational Outlook Handbook <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>, each group member should identify what the national median and average salaries are for your chosen occupation. Also, look up what each person could expect to earn in your selected cities.
3. Tax rates vary according to income levels; for purposes of this project, make it easy and assume the total withheld for all taxes is 18% of the gross salary. Remember that disposable income is the amount that remains after taxes. Determine each group members disposable income based on the median salary in each city.
4. Using the budgeting guidelines found at <https://www.nomoredebts.org/budgeting-guidelines>, construct a budget for the disposable income which you would realize in each city.
5. Each group member should investigate the actual cost of living in each of their selected cities as well as their home town. Use the cost of living calculator at <https://www.payscale.com/cost-of-living-calculator> to start this investigation. You may also want to seek out additional resources. What you will try to do is work out what your life would be like in each city. Where is the optimal place for you to practice your chosen profession?

Part 2: Essay

Construct a 1500 - 2500 word essay using your groups data. The formatting and citation requirements for this essay are identical to what we had in the first project. Your essay should include the following information:

- Salary projections for each group member.
- Comparison of the national median and the median in your three selected cities.

- Comparison of the budgets you would have in the cities you have chosen based on OOH data.
- Comparison of the cost of living in each of the cities, with special attention being paid to how adequate your income would be for living in each city. Are any too expensive for you?
- A discussion of how your region and profession fit together. Are there cities that universally pay more, or is it dependent on both variables?
- At least three cited sources other than the ones mentioned in this writing prompt.

Remember, you will be graded as a group. You will submit one essay that brings together all of your collected information. The essay will comprise 80% of your project grade.

Part 3: Presentation

Construct a presentation (in power point or some other software) which summarizes the information from your essay. Your presentation should be 5-10 minutes in length. Points will be deducted for presentations that are under or over time. The rubric by which the presentations are graded is on the next page. The presentation score will comprise 20% of your grade. You are also required to be present for all presentations. If you are absent during a presentation day, you will receive a grade of zero for this project.

RUBRIC:

5 or 10 points		0 points				
Score		Clearly stated; info includes names, fields of interest and salaries; all info is clearly discussed and shared in an organized fashion	All info included but not clear; not enough detail and/or not enough discussion; lacking organization	Some info missing; details lacking and/or not enough discussion; little organization	Very little info given; discussion of info lacking; no organization	None of the info included
	Group members & salaries (5 pts)					
	Disposable Income (5 pts)	Information and accurate amounts are given and discussed for each group member	Information given but could be shared in a better, more organized fashion	Some info missing; organization lacking	Very little info given	None of the info about disposable income is included
	Budgets (10 pts)	Sample budgets for each group member are given and discussed	Sample budgets are mentioned / shown, but little discussion	Sample budgets are mentioned / shown, but no discussion	Sample budgets are incorrect / lacking categories and not discussed	No sample budget info
	Variation in Cost of Living (5 pts)	References and interesting article information are clearly included	Some references / info from the articles included	Very little information from the articles is included	The articles are barely mentioned	Reference to the articles is missing
	Cost of Living Comparison Charts (5 pts)	Accurate and clear; included for every group member in an organized way	Accurate but not clear; included for every group member but lacking organization	Accuracy and clarity are lacking and/or charts are missing; poor organization	Most info / charts missing	No charts
	Summary of Chart Info (10 pts)	Clear statements / interpretations of each chart are given with %s included	Relative statements are given but lacking some clarity and/or % comparisons	Some statements are made but not clear; not many %s used	Not many interpretations / statements about charts included; very few %s mentioned	No interpretations
	Cities of Interest (10 pts)	Information about cities of interest is clear and includes numerical values; why the data might be important is also mentioned	Info about cities of interest is included but there could be more detail	Info is mentioned but no detail / no mention of why the info might be important	Very little information; no detail and/or mention of importance	Cities of interest information not included