



Career Goal Exploration Project

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College Connection Transition Program
The Durango Adult Education Center

PURPOSES:

1. To help you identify a career that you may/want to pursue
2. To help you decide whether to pursue this career
3. To create an action plan with short-term, intermediate, and long-term steps to guide you in reaching your goal.
4. To strengthen your reading, writing, and research skills
5. To find a potential mentor in your field

PART I: Career Identification through Self-Assessment (1—2 pages)

- What do you think you would enjoy doing for the rest of your life? (if money were no object)?
- Why does this lifestyle/activity/career appeal to you?
- When did you first think about this career? What experiences in your personal life or prior/current job inspired you to choose this current path? TELL THE STORY.
- Brainstorm what you know about this career and make a list. Some possibilities: advantages/disadvantages; duties and obligations; educational requirements/training; expenses involved; testing/licensure; salary/benefits/opportunities for promotion/travel/advancement; expectations regarding transfers/travel
- If you know little about this career, think about where you can go to get the best, most accurate and realistic information you need to help you make an informed decision about pursuing this career (vs. one made on emotion or romantic notions).

DUE DATE FOR PART I:

PART II: Further Career Investigation through Other Resources (3—6 pages)

Resource 1---Personal interview with an expert/someone working in the field. Develop a list of 5-10 interview questions. Interview may be in person or over the telephone. **One of your questions should find out how skilled you need to be as a reader, a writer, a mathematical thinker/computer, and a public speaker to be successful at this career.** Note the date, time, person's name, and contact number.

Resource 2---Work site visits (e.g., hospital, school, hotel, non-profit, state or federal agency, small business--bookstore, auto mechanic shop, law or medical office, river running, music/instrument store, etc.)

Resource 3---Library books, journals, trade magazines, national weekly magazine (Durango Public Library, Fort Lewis College Reed Library, library of Center for Southwest Studies, other local or regional libraries)

Resource 4—Online career sites and business sites (see handout for career websites)

Choose 1, 2, and 3 or 1, 2, and 4.

Number the typed interview questions and attach your answers, numbering them as well.

Write a one—two page summary of the interview, focusing on what you found most useful, surprising, disturbing, etc.

Write a one—two page summary of your work site visit and what you learned from it. Think about which of the twelve visualization elements (sights, sounds, movement, size, color, perspective, etc.) can best describe the work site and utilize those that will bring the site alive for readers.

Write a one—two page summary of the article you found at the library or online; include the main idea and significant details. Attach a copy of the article.

DUE DATE FOR PART II:

PART III: Results of Your Career Exploration (2—3 pages)

Summarize your findings and present your action plan to achieve your career goal.

Guidelines for final paper: your purpose is to present a comprehensive report of your exploration and findings in narrative form. Relate the whole picture to your readers with detailed explanations of the decision-making process and the reasoning behind your choices.

Section I (1—2 paragraphs): WHAT I KNOW (BASED SOLELY ON PRIOR KNOWLEDGE, NOT ON YOUR RESEARCH)

Tell the story of how this career came to interest/intrigue you and **why you think** it is worth the time, money, effort, and education to pursue achieving it.

Section II (1-1.5 pages): WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW AND WHAT I HAVE LEARNED (RESEARCH)

Discuss the results of your interview and your library/online research. **Tell us whom you interviewed and why** you chose this person. **Organize the most useful answers** in a logical pattern and **tell how they shaped your thoughts** about this potential career path, especially if they changed your mind or direction. If new questions have arisen since the interview, include them and why you want to find their answers.

Discuss what you discovered at the work site and how it influenced your perspective about your potential career. What expected or unexpected difficulties or delights did you find that might now be important to you?

Section III: (1—1.5 pages): WHAT I HAVE DECIDED AND PLAN TO DO

Reflect on why you will continue to pursue the career you originally had in mind, why you will now investigate a different career, or why you now feel indecisive. **Explain thoroughly** the factors that directed you to this point of view based on the information you gleaned from your research activities. **Describe your action plan** towards achieving your original (or different/new) career goal. Consider **short-term, intermediate, and long-term steps that you will need to complete to reach your ultimate goal of becoming a professional!**

DUE DATE FOR PART III: