



My Work, My Future

In this activity, youth will explore their career interests. They'll also answer questions to help them think about various aspects of their future careers.

This activity requires access to an internet-connected device, and assumes a basic level of computer/technology literacy.



The Messy Meter



Recommended Grades:
Ages 10 - 13

Estimated Time:
45 Minutes

Subject:
Career Exploration

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Pen or Pencil
- An internet-connected smartphone, tablet or computer

STEPS

1. Imagine a list of 2-3 careers you think you might be interested in. To get started, think about things you like to do. Can you think of careers that would allow you to use those skills or interests?
2. Using the internet, look up your dream careers and write down key information in the chart below, including:
 - Years of education required
 - [Estimated cost of education required](#)
 - Average salary
 - [Job growth outlook](#)
 - Certifications/credentials required
 - Main job duties
3. After you complete the chart, narrow down to your top career choice. Why did you pick this one?

Bonus Fun: Now that you have a better sense of your dream career, research famous/influential people who work in your desired field and read a few short biographies on them. How did they become successful? What were some of their notable achievements?



	JOB 1	JOB 2	JOB 3	JOB 4
EDUCATION REQUIRED				
EDUCATION COST				
AVERAGE SALARY				
JOB GROWTH OUTLOOK				
CERTIFICATION / CREDENTIALS				
MAIN DUTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • •

Questions to Engage Youth:

What careers did you select and why?

How are your finances and your future career related?

The career you want most may not be the one that pays the most money. How might that affect your financial planning?

Your chosen career might require some upfront investments of time and money for additional education. How might you plan for that? Are there some things you can do right now? How about in five years?

How do you think this career field will change between now and when you would start working? (Think about technology advancements, new inventions, etc.)

What is one thing you'd like to accomplish during the course of your career?

Explanation

In all likelihood, your career will be an important part of your life. That's why it's a good idea to start thinking about careers you might enjoy early. The good news is that you have plenty of time to explore your interests and start planning your future. But don't feel like you need to have it all figured out now. In fact, many of the jobs you could end up working in throughout your life might not even exist yet!

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