

## Exploring Careers

**Grade:** 10th, 11th, and 12th

**Overview:** Deciding on what occupations to pursue is worthy of some thought and exploration. Keeping an open mind during the exploration is good; you never know what you might learn. Now that you have taken Find Your Interests (FYI), you can use your results to help you decide what careers to explore. Review the list of occupations listed for your two highest RIASEC (Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional) codes. Select at least 3-4 occupations that appeal to you. If you are interested in an occupation that is not listed, include that occupation, too.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**What aspects of occupations are most important to consider?** It is most important to consider the following:

1. What is actually done on the job?
2. What are the working conditions?
3. What are the education and training requirements?
4. What salary can you expect to earn?
5. What are the employment opportunities/job outlook?

The following web sites provide this information and more about occupations. They also provide web site addresses for related professional associations and trade organizations.

[www.occupationaloutlook-handbook.net](http://www.occupationaloutlook-handbook.net)  
<http://online.onetcenter.org>

After you have done your research, select the one or two occupations that interest you the most. Write an essay on why this would be a good career choice for you. In your paper, cover the following topics:

- What about the occupation appeals to you the most?
- Based on your research, discuss what is required to achieve success in this career (education, training, etc.) and what you would have to do to prepare for entry into this career field.
- Describe the talents and the skills you already possess that will help you in the careers(s) you have selected (patient, athletic, good with math, etc.).
- Explain the things you will have to work on to achieve your goal and how you will go about doing this. If you are having problems figuring out what skills you already have and things you will need to do to reach your goal, ask family members, friends, teachers, and guidance counselors. They are great resources to help you list your positive traits and things you may need to improve upon.