

nActivity 9: Career Interview Project

FOR THE TEACHER

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to informational career interviews. Informational interviews allow people interested in an occupation to gather career and industry advice from professionals in the field, but are not part of the application process (i.e. they are not job interviews).

In Step 1 of the exercise, students explore one of the multimedia career interviews in Career Cruising in order to familiarize themselves with the types of questions to ask and the general approach to take. In Step 2, they take what they have learned and apply it in a “live” career interview with a parent or friend of the family.

Students completing this activity will learn about specific occupations and become more familiar with the realities and language of the workplace.

If you are short on time, you may wish to skip Step 1. Instead of having students answer the questions in Step 1, simply have them browse through a multimedia interview to familiarize themselves with the idea of informational career interviews.

Setting the Stage

Classroom discussion can focus on how to decide which career suits you. Ask students what they would do if they were interested in a career and wanted to learn more about it. What is the best way to learn more about a career? Have they ever asked their parents or friends of their family about their jobs? Explain what an informational interview is (and how it differs from a job interview).

Starting the Program

Go to www.careercruising.com. Enter your personal My Plan username and password in the spaces provided, and click on **Log In**.

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STEP 1: CAREER CRUISING INTERVIEW

Log in to Career Cruising and click on **Careers**. Then click on the **School Subjects** tab. Select your favorite school subject.

Scroll through the list of careers and click on a career that interests you.

Career: _____

1. Read the Job Description. List three things that people in this career do.

2. Click on Earnings. How much money do people in this career typically earn? What factors affect their income? (e.g. seniority, hours, expertise)

3. Click on Education. What kind of education, training, or other preparation do you need to get into this career?

Click on one of the two interviews.

Person's name: _____

4. What does this person do and how did this person get into this career? (see Questions & Answers #1 and #2)

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5. What personal characteristics are required to be successful in this career? *(see Questions & Answers #3)*

6. What changes to the career does the person foresee in the future? *(see Questions & Answers #6)*

7. What does the person like most about this career? *(see Likes)*

8. What does the person dislike most about this career? *(see Dislikes)*

9. What advice does this person have for someone who wants to get into this career? *(see Advice)*

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STEP 2: LIVE INTERVIEW

Now that you have viewed one of the interviews in Career Cruising and learned about the kinds of questions you can ask in a career interview, the next step is to try an interview with an adult you know (*e.g. a parent or a friend of your family*).

When doing the interview, remember that it is important to be well-organized and professional. The person you interview is taking time out of his or her busy day to help you. Listen carefully to what the person says; you may be surprised by what you learn! You can use the Interview Question sheet provided to help you with the interview.

INTERVIEW QUESTION SHEET

Career: _____

Person's name (optional): _____

1. What are your main tasks or responsibilities at work?

2. What kind of education, training, or other preparation do you need to get into your career? (*e.g. college degree, technical training, high school diploma, apprenticeship, on-the-job training*)

3. How did you get into this career? (*When you were young, did you want to do anything else? Did you have other types of jobs before this one?*)

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4. What personal characteristics are required for someone to be successful in your career? *(e.g. being organized or creative, writing or speaking clearly, being strong, or good with your hands)*

5. Have any recent changes affected your job? What changes to your career can you foresee in the future? *(e.g. changes in technology, economic changes)*

6. What do you like most about your job and the career you have chosen? *(In what way(s) is it better than other types of jobs/careers?)*

7. What do you dislike most about your job and the career you have chosen? *(What are the toughest parts, compared to other jobs/careers?)*

8. What advice do you have for someone who wants to get into this career?
