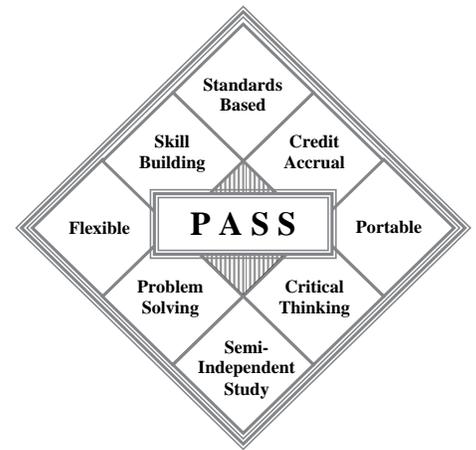


Lesson 2

Considering a Career



Materials Needed



Pen or pencil



Access to the Internet or library

Lesson Goals

In this lesson you will learn about different types of careers, career interest inventories, and how inventories can help you choose a career.



Considering a Career

Since you were very young, you have imagined yourself doing something for a living. You pretended to be a doctor with your dolls or played as a chef or firefighter. Choosing a career starts the same way—with your imagination, except you also take stock of your life experiences and all of the interests you have developed over the years.

Deciding on a career is something you want to put a lot of thought into. Is this something I would really enjoy doing? Am I just choosing this career because it pays well? Is there job security? Does it have a good benefits package? Is this something I will want or be able to do for the rest of my life? These are just a few things you will need to consider as you go through this process.

Start With a Journal

One way to help explore your thoughts and feelings is through journal writing. This gives you an opportunity to speculate about your future on paper, writing down your ideas, observations, and emotions so you can refer to them later. While this workbook requires that you keep a journal, this habit becomes especially important when you are doing something complex like preparing for college.

The benefits of journal writing are many. It allows you to sort out problems and consider options. It can help you reflect on personal values, goals, and ideas. It can even allow you to discover and/or explore your feelings about the future.

JOURNAL ENTRY

Have you thought about what you might like to do after you complete your high school course requirements? Would you like to pursue a career in education, medicine, business, social services, engineering, criminal justice, or something else?

In your journal, write about a career you are interested in. You may be considering more than one right now. Write down your thoughts on each one. Explain why these choices interest you.

6. What courses did you excel in?

7. Do you see a connection between your success in school and your future career? How are they connected?

8. What are your strengths?

Browsing Careers

One way to help you decide what would be a good career fit for you is to learn about different careers. *Career One Stop* is a great website to investigate different careers. A good way to learn about yourself and to see what careers might be a good fit for you is to take a career interest inventory. You can do this by going to careeronestop.org and clicking on “Explore Careers.”

From the dropdown menu click on “Interest assessment.” The interest assessment will ask you questions about lots of different topics. Based on your answers it will show you lots of different careers that you might be interested in. You will have 30 different questions to answer. Next, click on “Learn About Careers.” Here you will explore the career choices you wrote down. Write down the information you discover below. Don’t only look for basic information about the career, but see what kind of training is required, as well as salary information and job prospects for that career in the future. After going through the career interest inventory and researching your top career choices, you should have a better idea about a future career choice.

CAREER CHOICES

Once you have completed the interest inventory at careeronestop.org, write down 3-4 career choices that attract your interest.

First choice

Second choice

Third choice

Fourth choice

Thinking About College Majors

Our next step on your career journey is to explore what kind of training is needed for your chosen career. *MyMajors.com* can help you find what college major provides the best educational training for your chosen career.

To register, fill in your name and email address and create a password. This way you will be able to save your information and come to the website at any time. After registering, you will need to complete your profile. *MyMajors.com* uses the information you provide in your profile to help you choose the right college major to fit your career path.

Once you have chosen a college major, the next step is to find the right college or university to attend. To start, let's explore colleges that have the college major you have chosen. To do this, go to the College Board website at *CollegeBoard.org* and create an account. Make sure to write down your account information so you will be able to log back into your account in the future.

After you have created your account, click on "College Search." This will take you to a part of the College Board website called "Big Future," where you will be able to begin your search for colleges that have your chosen major.

COLLEGEBOARD.ORG LOGIN CREDENTIALS

Write down your username and password for your account at *collegeboard.org*. Remember to keep your login information in a secure place.

USERNAME:

PASSWORD:

.....

CHOOSING A MAJOR

Once you have seen the choices of majors that fit your career path at *MyMajors.com*, record that information below.

This is best choice of a college major for me:

Field of Study

An academic interest like political science or mathematics that students choose to focus on in college

.....

Major

The main focus of a college degree program organized around a single field of study. Students often study a "minor" as well to broaden their interests and skills

.....

THE HOLLAND CODE

CAREER TEST

Psychologist John Holland has developed a test to find an occupation that best suits your interests, talents, and skill level. You can take the test online at *Truity.com*.

You will be asked a series of questions about various kinds of tasks such as designing magazine covers or tracking expenses for a company. The test takes ten minutes and is free.

truity.com/test/holland-code-career-test

College Choices

Once on the College Search page of Big Future (*BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org*), you will be able to click on “Majors and Learning Environment.” Here you can search by the specific major or by the broad area the major falls under, such as engineering, health care, etc. Take some time and check out the different colleges that come up that have your college major. Write down your top four choices, including the name of the college, its location, its cost of tuition, and graduation requirements for your major. Use a separate sheet of paper if there isn’t room here.

First choice:

Second choice:

Third choice:

Fourth choice:

Analysis

You have discovered a lot of information about yourself and have started down the path towards planning for your future. Take the next few minutes to reflect on what you have learned about yourself by answering these questions.

What surprised you the most about the career choices that came out of your career interest inventory?

Did you agree with the choices the inventory gave you? Why or why not?

What contributed to your decision of a career choice?

What college majors are the best fit for your career choice?

What did you like about the four colleges you chose?

What did you like the least?



End of Lesson 2