

WEnav

Career Navigation for Youth

Section 5: Looking Ahead



Moving Forward

Next steps:

- Narrow down your ideal career options and learn more about them
- Evaluate what skills and education/training you need to be successful in your future career(s)
- Speak to someone in your idea career



Of all the careers they have researched, youth choose some careers that they believe to be the most viable and attractive options for them (3-6 different careers would be ideal). They can refer to their Interesting Careers, Careers I Like, and Other Careers I Like handouts for these careers. If youth do not have a career list that they are happy with thus far, they must go back and do more career research (perhaps they require some assistance with this if they have been unable to do so). In order to move ahead, youth should have a list of careers that they are genuinely excited about and interested in, and that are realistic. This is a vital checkpoint in the program. Some youth may settle for a list of careers that are not very exciting to them because they do not want to do more research, or they feel pressured to make a fast

choice. Try to identify this in youth by asking, are you really excited to work in this career? What about it excites you? Is it realistic? Why is this career good for you? If youth are not very excited, encourage them to re-evaluate their choices and do more research.

Do these careers fit?

Career: _____

Self-Knowledge	Does this fit? (Yes/No/Somewhat)
Likes/interests	
Dislikes	
Skills	
What am I good at?	
Transferable Skills	
Motivations	
Work Conditions	
Values	
Learning Styles	
Weaknesses	
Successes	

Youth can assess Beth's two chosen careers compared to her self-knowledge (referring to the Clues to my Career column on the Beth's Example - What Does This Mean handout) in groups, pairs, or individually. Youth will choose which career they believe is best for Beth, and share with the rest of the group.

Prompting Question: Which career fits better for Beth? Although both careers match fairly well with Beth's self-knowledge, electrician has a higher pay, involves more problem solving, allows her to make use of her hand-eye coordination and math skills, allows her to work outdoors, and has on the job, hands-on training.

Now youth will do this same activity for themselves using their top careers and their self-knowledge. Explain: You likely are not going to find a career that is absolutely perfect for you and matches your self-knowledge 100% because there are

several
different aspects to each career. You want your career to fit your self-
knowledge for the
most part to determine if it is a good fit.

What are you going to need to get to your career?



- 1 Education
- 2 Training
- 3 Experience

Youth will now begin to focus on and research in-depth the few careers that they have determined to be best for them. The Career Investigation handouts will guide their research. Youth will fill out the Career Investigation charts by doing more intense career research. This information can be found through online research, looking at job ads, and doing informational interviews or some other type of experiential learning. If after completing the in-depth research youth still are not excited about a career, or they find the career does not fit for them as well as they thought it would, they can go back and start their research over again, finding other suitable careers.

What else can I do?

Ways you can find this information:

Asking someone

- Who is working in the field

Internet

- Educational institution websites
- Internet searches
- Career websites

Ask yourself

- What transferable skills will I gain from this education/training/experience?
- What careers are in the same sector?



Youth can look at job advertisements, websites, educational institution websites, etc.

for this information.

Youth will research other opportunities that can come from the education that they

would need for their chosen careers. Youth should aim to find at least two other

careers for each educational pathway they are considering.

If a youth has chosen a career that does not require formal education or training, have

the youth consider other careers that he/she can do with the transferable skills gained

from that career and experience (what other careers can I do with these skills?).

They

can find this information by doing internet searches or they can search using Job Bank

under the Explore Careers by Skills & Knowledge section.

Youth share the other careers with the rest of the group. For each career a youth shares, ask: Can you see yourself doing that career? Is this something you think

you
would enjoy? Does this career fit well with your self-knowledge?

Experiential Learning

WHAT IS IT?

- Volunteering
- Job shadowing
- Observing
- Taking tours
- Co-op
- Apprenticeships
- Informational interviews



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Career research
- Experience for resume
- Develop skills
- Self discovery
- Networking

Define experiential learning:

Experiential learning is learning through experience.

Prompting Questions: Why should you participate in experiential learning?

Why is

experiential learning helpful? How do you participate in experiential learning?

When

you were looking at employer expectations, did anyone notice how employers were

looking to hire people with experience? How do you get this experience if you have not

worked in your field?

Informational Interviews

WHY?

- Yes, contacting people for an interview is intimidating
- However, it is an extremely helpful thing to do!
- Learn about: daily job duties, work environment, dress codes, etiquette, and etc.
- Build connections by networking



Describe what an informational interview is:

An informational interview is a conversation with someone in the field/career/company that you would like to work in one day. You can ask questions about working conditions, tips on getting hired, what to avoid, etc. Youth have a list of informational interview questions that they can use for their

interviews, but should be encouraged to add their own. Having youth create their own

questions will stimulate deeper thought into their prospective careers.

Youth will set up their own informational interviews. This can be done via phone, email,

or in person. Be sure youth remember to follow the guidelines provided on the handout

as they want to make a good impression on anyone they are contacting in their potential fields.

Reflection Questions

1. Why is experiential learning so important to my career?
2. What are the next steps I will take to get experiential learning?
3. Why am I excited about the careers I am researching?

