

- Resources/Materials—Internet access, career information resources (e.g., print, video, computer-based career information delivery systems, local business and industry partners)
- Time Required—120 minutes of class time with ample time outside of class for students to complete the research project, individual support time as needed

Procedures

Part One (60 minutes)

- This activity expands student awareness of an occupation of interest and sharpens their skills to create a documented research project.
- Open discussion with students sharing occupations of interest.
- Have students share some information about the occupation...Where did they get the information? How up-to-date is it? How reliable is the source?
- Tell students about the research project assignment and the requirements for it.
- Explain the *Occupational Research – Project Questions* worksheet and the *Occupational Information Websites* handout.
- Discuss any questions the students have about the project.

Part Two—Career Development Connections (60 minutes)

- Have students share what they learned through doing the project...both about the occupation and the process of creating a documented research project.
- What sources of information did students find most helpful? Did they question the accuracy of any of the data sources? What surprised them about their research (e.g., new information, faulty information they had about the occupation, trends they discovered).
- After carefully researching the occupation, is it still one that is of interest to them? Why or why not?

Crosswalks

SC Career Guidance Standard/Competency

Learning to Work Standard 3. Students will explore careers and the connection of school to work.

Competency 3.6. Develop skills to locate, evaluate, and interpret career information.

Key Employability Skills

Communication Skills—Writing

Creative Thinking—Generates new ideas

Information—Obtains, evaluates, organizes, interprets, and communicates information.

* Adapted from *Career Development Tool Kit*, Linda Kobylarz & Associates, 2001. Used with permission.

Occupational Research Project Questions

Directions: Use at least five resources to get the information you need to answer these research questions about the occupation you selected. Summarize the information, draw your conclusions, and present them in your research project. Be sure to take careful notes and document the sources of your information in the project.

Occupation to be Researched _____

1. What is the nature of the work (i.e., responsibilities, tasks, duties, tools and equipment used on the job, physical demands, and typical work schedule)?
2. How does the occupation match with your interests?
3. What knowledge, skills, and abilities do you need for the occupation?
4. How do your knowledge, skills, and abilities match with this occupation?
5. What high school courses would help a person prepare for this occupation?
6. What education/training after high school is required for this occupation? What are some schools where that education and training is available?
7. What is the salary range for this occupation in our state? Nationally?
8. What is the employment outlook for this occupation in our local area? In South Carolina? Nationally?
9. What companies hire people for this occupation?
10. What advice would you give someone about choosing this occupation?
11. What new or surprising information did you learn?
12. Are you still interested in this occupation? Why or why not?

Internet Sites for Career Information

Search Engines: Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com>) Google (<http://google.com>)

Enter keywords for a career field or other career information.

Career Information Websites (A Sampler) - Check with your teacher and school counselor for other resources at your high school

Occupational Outlook Handbook
(published by U.S. Dept. of Labor)

<http://www.bls.gov/oco>

Information about hundreds of occupations

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov>

Data, economy at a glance, regional information, publications, and research papers...links to state information and to the *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*

America's Career InfoNet

<http://www.acinet.org>

Information on hundreds of occupations and the requirements for entry

O*NET Online

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

Includes information about 950 occupations including information on skills, abilities, work activities, and interests...great for skill gap analysis

Career Guides from JobStar

<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/index.htm>

Comprehensive collection of career information

Career Voyages

www.careervoyages.gov

Provides information on high growth, high demand occupations along with the skills and education needed for them

