

14) Complete “What I’ve discovered about College/Career” writing assignments (three parts)

For this assignment, you will reveal the QUESTIONS you have raised about college or career and the PROCESS by which you searched for facts and opinions.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

You must contact at least TWO people.

You must consult at least THREE printed or internet sources.

PEOPLE TO CONTACT:

Consider college contacts: Your high school teachers, counselors, administrators, librarian, career center director, coaches, nurse, secretaries; a person who is now attending the school you’re exploring or is a graduate of the school or program; a faculty or staff person at the school you’d like to attend; your own family.

Career/Military Contacts: A person employed in your chosen profession, business people in the community, campus military recruiters, family members, etc.

PRINTED SOURCES TO CONSULT

Use materials available in the counseling office, career center, school library, college catalogs, military information, college guides, magazines, newspaper articles, and internet.

Materials available from the college campus you’re exploring such as the campus newspaper, newsletters, bulletins, financial aid and housing brochures, campus maps, etc.

WRITING SECTION ONE: The Search (1 typed page)

The SEARCH will be written in narrative form. Don’t feel obligated to tell every tedious detail of your search. Instead, share the highlights of the discovery process. Don’t be afraid to admit to dead-ends, obstacles, frustrations, false leads. Give credit to people who were helpful and to printed resources which were useful. Section three is usually told in chronological order, in past tense.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In section ONE you will tell how you found your resources and tell whom you interviewed, but you WON’T write about what you read in these resources or what the people told you. SAVE THAT FOR SECTION TWO.

WRITING SECTION TWO: What I Discovered (1-2 typed pages)

In this most important section you will assess all the FACTS AND OPINIONS you’ve gathered and organize them into an essay with a THESIS STATEMENT AND TOPIC SENTENCES.

SOME OPTIONS FOR THESIS CREATION AND PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT:

Compare your fantasies and assumptions about your topic to the reality you discovered.

Develop in some order of priority the most important things you learned in your search.

Explain the steps or processes you now know you must follow base on your discovery.

These of course are only suggestions to get you started. It is always encouraged that you create a thesis statement that is creative and effective for your individual essay.

SECTION THREE: My Personal Action Plan (OK, so now what???)....1-2 typed pages.

To give your paper a strong finish and to make it a useful document you need to think about what you're going to do with all you've learned by doing the college/career search.

Look back at your "assumptions" pre-writing. Perhaps you were too idealistic about college or career back then, and during your search, you have wizened up a bit. Or perhaps you had been intimidated by the entire college application process and now you feel you can not only compete with others, but you can succeed. Whatever your experience, SECTION THREE gives you the opportunity to get a grip on what comes around after high school.

CONSIDER FOR COLLEGE:

- Where to apply
- How to ask for letter of recommendation
- When to take which test
- When to visit which campus
- When to mail applications
- Whether or not to arrange for interviews for admissions or scholarships
- Whether or not you qualify for any special admissions or scholarship programs, based on you race, religion, financial needs, family situation, parents' employment, career goals, interests
- When you plan how much you and your parents can contribute to your education financing
- How much money to set aside now to cover your financial commitment
- When and how to apply for local and other scholarships
- Whether or not to take certain classes during the summer
- Whether to retake the SAT and/or to have your scores sent to additional schools
- What to do to insure that you make the most of the educational offerings, family support, career guidance, and extracurricular activities
- What to do to change your study habits and/or attitude to make yourself a better learner
- What to do in case your plans don't work out-what will you do if you are not accepted or don't get the financial aid you had expected
- How to cope with any other concerns, frustrations, expectation

CONSIDER FOR CAREER:

- With whom and when to interview
- How to ask for letters of recommendation

- What courses or preparation are needed
- When to visit careers
- If apprentice programs are necessary whether to talk to employers about job requirements and special skills needed
- Whether to take certain classes during summer or during school to enhance your chances of passing entrance tests or getting needed training or experience for the job
- What to do to change your study habits/and or attitude to make yourself a better learner
- What to do in case your plans don't work – what will you do if you don't get the job or if the business folds and you are out of work

NOTE: Experiment with the form of your personal action plan by considering writing as:

- a reflective essay on what you need to do and what it all means to you
- a letter to yourself, your parents, your teacher

Some things to include

- a list of THINGS I'VE GOT TO DO
- a personal calendar of your relevant upcoming events and due dates
- a chart, map, graph or picture of the BIG PLAN