**Career Exploration Research Paper**

**& 2015 Senior Seminar Presentation Project**

**Part 1: Introduction: Personal Assessment**.

In the introductory section of your paper, explain how you came to decide on this career for your research. Did someone inspire you to follow this career path? Are specific personality types or skills required for this career? Why you think this career is a match for your personality, interests and values. If you aren’t sure, try to think of what draws you to this career. If you like, here is the place where you might describe your fantasy career. The career you chose to research may or may not live up to parts of your ideal.

**Job Title: Name the Career or Job**

**Part 2: Requirements for entry into your career**.

In this section, detail the education, experience, licenses and skills necessary for the career. Most of this information may be located online by researching the job/career in general, but also check the Bureau of Labor Statistics to make sure there is a need for you in the future! You might also check employment websites (monster.com, etc.) Are there any specific job training or apprenticeship requirements? How long will the education, training and/or apprenticeship take? From your interviews with people in the field you should also get the unwritten rules of entry into this profession. What majors are recommended? What are related occupations for this career?

**Part 3: Describe the job.**

Describe a day in the life of a member of your career. What do people who do this job or who have this career actually do? Are there different career paths you might take? Include physical environment, time schedule, location, salary and benefits. What special skills and abilities or personal characteristics are necessary for success in this field? If possible, you can interview someone employed in this field currently. What do they like and dislike about their job? What advice would they give you? What do you think you will like and dislike about this occupation? What is the typical monthly and annual pay? What is the salary range (low to high)? (Try to find the most up to date local information.)

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**Part 4: Describe the Profession Today**.

You may want to include a brief history of your career choice here. What are some current issues or changes in this field? What are the concerns of people in your

career today. Are there any professional journals related to your chosen field?

Please discuss at least two issues; one may be the impact of technology and how certain aspects of the job/career may change; another issue may be the impact of globalization. How will employment trends impact your chosen field?

**Part 5: From here to there.**

What do you need to do to get from LEMA to this career? Outline the steps you

will take including specifics on what type of education is required? What colleges, community colleges and/or technical schools have majors or credential or certification programs that someone who was interested in this career/job attend? What colleges offer the required major? What are the costs of obtaining this education or training? What kind of scholarships are available?

**Part 6: What does the future hold?**

Who are the big employers in this field? What is the job outlook? Can you locate a current job advertisement? (Copy and paste a typical ad and remember to cite the reference.) What is the job outlook? What are the growth opportunities? Will you have to move? What are the major obstacles you anticipate and how will you overcome them? What are some resources you can use to assist you get there? Mention some professional associations you could join while still a student.

**Research Paper Requirements**

**Works Cited**

**Part 6: Works Cited.**

For every resource you use, provide a citation in MLA format. (Author. Book.

Place of Publication: Publisher, Date or “Bookkeeping.” EUREKA. EUREKA, 2009. Web. 17 Sept. 2011.)

Each source should be cited in the body of your paper as a **parenthetical reference**. This is not a Bibliography! Please see the sample MLA paper in the Research Paper folder in RBook.

Be sure to follow the correct format for print versus online sources. The example below is the same source but one student used the book in the Career Center and the other accessed it online.

United States. Dept. of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. “Librarians.” Occupational Outlook Handbook. Library ed. Washington: GPO,2011. 266-269. Print.

“Librarians.” Occupational Outlook Handbook.2010-11ed. United States. Dept. of Labor.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. 18 Dec. 2007.Web. 20 Sept. 2009.

You will need at least five resources. Many of these will be online databases, websites and/or college, community college or trade association websites. Another should

consist of a professional journal in your field and one source may be an interview

with an individual currently employed in your area. **Do not use wikipedia**!

This section is crucial! Your paper will be returned without a grade if you do not include Part 6. Good Luck! I hope you gain some valuable insight into the career of your choice. If you need help please use your resources! These include me, the

counselor, other faculty members, and the Library.

All papers must be typed, double-space with a 12 point font (Arial preferred) and submitted to your Senior Seminar and your ELA teacher via google docs.

**Due Dates**:

Research Paper:

Presentation to Class: