

# CAREER READINESS

## Research Exercise

### > HOW ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRANSLATES TO CAREER READINESS

Entrepreneurship training serves as a powerful foundation for career readiness, equipping students with a diverse range of skills that are highly sought after in today's job market. Through entrepreneurial ventures, students develop a strong sense of initiative, fostering the ability to identify opportunities and proactively address challenges. The process of planning and executing a business idea hones critical thinking and problem-solving skills, enabling students to make well-informed decisions and adapt to dynamic environments.

### > BUT I'LL HAVE TO WORK FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

One of the most effective ways to become an entrepreneur is by starting a career in the field that you intend to launch your business in. A career serves as a valuable stepping stone towards becoming an entrepreneur by offering ample opportunities to learn essential business practices and skills. As individuals immerse themselves in a professional environment, they gain firsthand experience in various aspects of running a business, and may even witness pitfalls that they can avoid in their own future endeavor. This accumulation of knowledge and experience can ignite the entrepreneurial spark, inspiring students to leverage their newfound skills and embark on their own ventures with confidence and competence.

The purpose of this exercise is to aid students in discovering potential career avenues that match their interests, should they choose to pursue employment.

### > TIME REQUIRED

5 parts, 15 minutes each

### > RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Exercise worksheet (digital or printed)
- Computer and internet connection
- A mentor to share assessments with

### > EXERCISE FOCUSES ON:

Creative Thinking



Communication (Written, Oral)



Math Proficiency



Economic Understanding



# EXERCISE ANALYSIS

## Standards Alignment

This research exercise closely aligns with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Career Education and Work. The exercise aims to help students explore potential career paths and make informed decisions based on their interests, strengths, and aspirations. Let's break down how each section of the worksheet relates to the academic standards:

### > SECTION 1: PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

This section encourages students to identify their interests, hobbies, academic strengths, and skills. It aligns with the Career Awareness and Preparation standards (13.1) by helping students recognize their unique interests and abilities and how they relate to career choices.

### > SECTION 2: EXPLORING CAREER OPTIONS

In this section, students research and describe three careers that interest them, along with their educational requirements and job outlook. This aligns with the Career Acquisition (Getting a Job) standards (13.2), where students learn about job opportunities, career planning, and the skills needed to enter the workforce.

### > SECTION 3: IDENTIFYING CAREER PATHS

In this part of the worksheet, students reflect on the information gathered and select the career path that best aligns with their interests and goals. This relates to the Career Retention and Advancement standards (13.3) as it involves evaluating attitudes, work habits, and long-term career planning.

### > SECTION 4: SETTING GOALS

Students outline short-term and long-term goals that will set them on the path towards their chosen career. This aligns with the Career Retention and Advancement standards (13.3), where students learn about planning for career advancement and the importance of lifelong learning.

### > SECTION 5: SEEKING GUIDANCE

In the final section, students are encouraged to seek guidance from parents, teachers, or career counselors. This aligns with the Career Awareness and Preparation standards (13.1), which emphasize the importance of building relationships between education and careers and utilizing resources for career awareness and preparation.

### > SUMMARY

Overall, our research exercise provides a structured approach for students to explore career options, understand educational requirements, set goals, and seek guidance – all of which are fundamental aspects of career education and preparation as outlined in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Career Education and Work



## Career Readiness - Research Exercise

**Instructions:** This worksheet is designed to help you explore and identify potential career paths that align with your interests, strengths, and aspirations. Take your time to answer each question thoughtfully and honestly. Discuss your responses with parents, teachers, or career counselors for additional guidance.

### Section 1: Personal Assessment

What are your top three interests or hobbies? (e.g., sports, art, technology, music, etc.)

List three subjects you excel in or enjoy studying at school.

Identify your three most significant strengths or skills. (e.g., leadership, problem-solving, creativity, etc.)

What kind of work environment do you envision yourself thriving in? (e.g., indoors, outdoors, fast-paced, collaborative, independent, etc.)

Consider the impact you'd like to make in your future career. What causes, issues, or industries are you passionate about? (e.g., environmental, social justice, healthcare, technology, etc.)

## **Section 2: Exploring Career Options**

**Research Careers: Choose three careers that interest you based on your personal assessment in Section 1. Briefly describe each career and what it entails.**

Career 1: Description:

Career 2: Description:

Career 3: Description:

**Educational Requirements: Research the education and qualifications needed for each of the three careers you listed above. What kind of degrees or certifications are typically required?**

Career 1: Education & Qualifications:

Career 2: Education & Qualifications:

Career 3: Education & Qualifications:

**Job Outlook: Investigate the current job market for each of these careers. Are there ample job opportunities? What is the projected growth in the industry?**

Career 1: Job Outlook:

Career 2: Job Outlook:

Career 3: Job Outlook:

### **Section 3: Identifying Career Paths**

**Crossroads:** Based on the information gathered above, which career path aligns best with your interests, strengths, and future goals? Circle the most suitable career option.

**Backup Plan:** Considering that career paths may change, what's your second choice from the three career options you explored?

**Why Your Choice Matters:** Write a paragraph explaining why the selected career path is essential to you and how it allows you to make a positive impact on your life and the lives of others.

#### **Section 4: Setting Goals**

**Short-Term Goals: List three short-term goals (to achieve within a year) that will set you on the path towards your chosen career.**

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

**Long-Term Goals: Outline three long-term goals (to achieve within 5-10 years) that will help you reach your ultimate career objectives.**

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

**Action Plan: Describe specific steps you will take to achieve each of the goals listed above. Be realistic and include resources or support you might need.**

Goal 1 Action Plan:

Goal 2 Action Plan:

Goal 3 Action Plan:

### **Section 5: Seeking Guidance**

**Consultation:** Share this worksheet with a parent, guardian, teacher, or career counselor. Schedule a discussion to review your answers and seek their input and advice.

**Follow-Up:** After the consultation, jot down any valuable insights or feedback you received. Use this information to refine your career plan and aspirations.

Remember, career decisions are a journey, and it's okay if you don't have all the answers right away. Stay open to new opportunities, keep learning, and never hesitate to seek guidance when needed. Good luck on your career exploration!