



Careers Course

Many students have no idea what they want to do in the future. Other students know their general field of interest but don't have knowledge of the careers that are available in relation to their interest. All too often it seems like young people are supposed to figure out their future by "magic". At some point before the end of Grade 12, it is assumed they will suddenly know what they want to do in the future. Indeed some students do figure this out. Others have known since they were young what type of career they would like to pursue. However, for many others the end of high school looms like a big blank slate and they have no idea what they should even consider writing on it. A Careers Course can help parents and students alike thoughtfully and intentionally face this question. It may not give a full and complete answer immediately but it puts the right questions on the table for discussion.

A CAREERS COURSE WORTH ONE HALF CREDIT, IS REQUIRED WITHIN THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GUIDELINES. CONSIDER A FORMAL COURSE. WE RECOMMEND CAREER EXPLORATION 10 BY MATT BEAN.

https://www.learninghouse.ca/products/12137/products_detail/career-exploration-10-printed-workbook-with-digital-resources.html

The projects suggested below will help your student to start to work through the process of career selection. Choose projects that seem the most suited to your situation. In the end students should complete 55 hours of study to complete this half credit course.

As Christian parents, many of us will also want to encourage our students to seek the Lord as they plan for their future. What is God calling our children to do? This is a big question and one that may not be quickly or easily answered. As students work through the projects below they should also be seeking the Lord for His direction and confirmation that they are indeed heading down the right path.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS

Career Survey

Research several careers

Job Shadowing

Interviews

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS

1. DO A CAREER SURVEY

Options:

www.careerdirectonline.org (a paid service)

careercruising.com (a paid service)

www.jobbank.gc.ca/career-planning/quizzes

myblueprint.ca (use code "ONDEMO15" to access most resources for free)

2. RESEARCH SEVERAL CAREERS THAT INTEREST THE STUDENT

Students should research 5 or more careers that are of interest to them depending on their depths of study. For students who are just beginning the process it might be better to research a number of very different types of careers to try and narrow the field. For students who have some idea of their field of study more detailed research might be warranted in less career areas. For instance: A student may feel that they would like to be a nurse and that this would fulfill God's calling on their life. Nursing is a huge field of work and study. The student could research various kinds of nurses and nursing careers in order to try and ascertain what area of nursing might appeal to them the most. I.e. pediatric nurse, emergency nurse, or even a nurse practitioner.

3. JOB SHADOWING

Find an opportunity to work with someone who actually does this job.

Students under 16 may find it difficult to go on a job site due to current insurance regulations. There is nothing like seeing a job being done to help students see if it is something they want to do.

4. INTERVIEWS

Arrange to interview (chat) with someone who does the job the student is interested in. See the attached suggestions for some sample questions the student might want to ask.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR RESEARCHING A CAREER

- Job Description: What are the responsibilities of someone with this job?
- Educational Requirements: University, College, Apprenticeship?
- What institutions offer the required training?
- Salary: How much money would you expect to make?
- Demand: What are the opportunities for getting hired and what kinds of companies hire people who do this job?
- What are typical work hours?
- Evaluation: Does this career still interest me? Why or why not?
- Check out the form, "**Career Study**" in your digital downloads.

Once this has been completed the student should write a response to what they have seen. What were the positive and negative things about this job? Would these influence whether or not the student would choose this career?

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEWING

- Describe a typical day in your job.
- Where did you go to get your training/education?
- What are the best parts of your job?
- What do you enjoy least?
- What are the opportunities for advancement?
- Is there demand for more people in this field?
- Do you find your job stressful?

In both cases the suggested questions are just a starting point. Customize them to meet your situation. When interviewing someone our students must remember to be very courteous, to look their host in the eye and to ask other questions as they come to mind. When done be sure to thank them for their time.