

English 12

Mr. Monsen

Career Choice Essay

Directions: Complete steps 1-13 in order in your notebook.

Step 1: Brainstorm ideas by answering the following questions. *Each response should be at least a quarter of a written page in your notebook.*

- 1) What is your dream career? And why?
- 2) What is a logical career for you? And why?
- 3) What is the perfect fit career for you? And why?

Step 2: Read the Assignment Directions and the **Sample Career Choice Essay** below:

Assignment Directions: Write a 400-600 word essay about a potential career for your future. Follow the outline you copied into your notebook and use the sample essays you read as a guide. The essay must be written in your notebook first, then typed and handed in by the due date on the calendar.

Typing Format: Single spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman, 1” margins, and the title must be centered and **bolded** and read **Career Choices Essay**. Then put your name below the titled, not in bold.

Sample Essay

Career Choice Essay

By Joe Schmoe

Although finding the career that is best fit for you may be a challenge; it is important that you search for the perfect fit. It will benefit you in the long run. Many factors like location, benefits, drawbacks and other variables should be thought about when choosing a career. The career that is best fit for me would be education. It is my goal to become a high school history teacher. Everything about the job seems perfect for me.

There are many reasons education would be the best fit career for me. The main reason is because teaching has always come natural to me. I've always enjoyed teaching people new things and having the feeling of being an educator. I first realized I wanted to be a teacher in tenth grade. The varsity lacrosse team was assigned to pick a partner. You and your partner got assigned a team of second graders and you coached them throughout the winter. This experience made me realize that teaching was the perfect fit for me.

Another huge factor in picking education was the benefits. With education, there are certain benefits that were very appealing to me. One major benefit is summers off. With the summers off this would allow me to raise a family. Spending time with my family is the most important factor to me and this would allow me to fulfill that factor. Another advantage is location. I would not have to live any further than ten minutes from the school I teach at. Also this could allow me to choose a house where I like before looking for a job. The final benefit is the short hours. As a teacher I'm only required to work for the school day. Once the bell rings I can leave whenever I please. This would allow me to spend more time with my family as well. Education has many benefits that are crucial to my decision.

With the advantages, there are some drawbacks. Though there are not many, some of them are major. One major drawback is the salary. Most teachers start under 40,000 dollars a year. I would have to work for a few years before I can start a family. Reason being is because I'd have to save up money and have my salary get raised. Another major drawback is the lack of jobs available. Education is a well sought after career. Due to this, there are not many jobs available, which means I would have to work harder. Though, this would not stop me from pursuing the perfect fit job for me.

While pursuing a career it is important one must think about advantages and drawbacks, location, benefits and other deciding factors. If one does not consider these, they may get stuck with a career they do not love. Education is the perfect fit for me. Even though there are major drawbacks such as job availability and salary, the benefits of raising a family and doing what I love outweighs the drawbacks

Word Count: 510

Step 3: Take the Personality Test by following the directions below. **Record** your **results** in your notebook.

- 1) Google “humanmetrics personality test”
- 2) Click the first result. Take the test and record your personality type in your notebook
- 3) Research what careers are best for your personality and write them down in your notebook
- 4) Google “learningpath.org”
- 5) Click the first result. Research Pros and Cons of different careers

Step 4: Research some **careers** and see which one suits you best. Copy the categories below into your notebook to use during your research:

Career Research

Field:

Job Title:

Advantages:

Drawbacks:

Other interesting things to note:

Step 5: Copy the “Career Choice Essay Outline” sample for this assignment below into your notebook and then complete your own outline:

Career Choice Essay Outline

I. Introduction - Introduce the idea of choosing a career and name and describe what career you might choose in the future.

II. Body Paragraph #1 - Why will you choose this career?

III. Body Paragraph #2 - What are the benefits of this career?

IV. Body Paragraph #3 - Describe any negatives of this career.

V. Conclusion - Summarize and wrap it up

Step 6: Copy the “Organizing a Paragraph Outline” below into your notebook. Then **complete** the “**Organizing a Paragraph Practice**” and check your answers with the key.

Organizing a Paragraph Outline

I. Topic Sentence – Addresses the topic that will be discussed in the paragraph

II. Supporting Thoughts – Each of these sentences are directly related to the Topic Sentence

III. Summarizing Sentence – Wraps up the entire paragraph

IV. Transitional Sentence – Mentions the topic of the paragraph you just finished, but then briefly introduces the topic that will be coming in the next paragraph

Organizing a Paragraph Practice: Write the sentences below in the correct order to make a good paragraph. Instead of rewriting the entire paragraph, use the numbers for each sentence to put them in order.

1 This is where he stayed and then went to university. **2** For example, at the age of two the family moved to Hong Kong. **3** As you can see, Simon experienced many things in his life while he was traveling. **4** Simon’s early life was very interesting. **5** Later, when he was a teenager, his family decided to stay in Australia. **6** Traveling provided great experiences for Simon, but eventually he realized where he wanted to spend the rest of his life. **7** When he was very young, he lived in several different countries because his father travelled for business.

Answer Key

4, 7, 2, 5, 1, 3, 6

Step 7: Copy the “Commas in a Series Notes” below into your notebook and then **complete** the “Commas in a Series Practice”. Check your answers using the answer key.

Commas in a Series Notes

COMMAS IN A SERIES (ITEMS IN A SERIES)

of items – 1 = # of commas

Rule # 1 - Use a comma to separate three or more items in a series.

Examples:

1. Sam, Ed, and Gloria sat down.

Rule # 2 - Two items in a series do not need a comma.

Example:

1. I handle the editorials and draw the cartoons.

Rule # 3 - When items in a series are separated by conjunctions, there is no need for commas.

Examples:

1. She owns a dog and hamster and fish.

COMMAS IN A SERIES PRACTICE:

Read each sentence carefully. Write the word and the comma that comes directly after it. If there are no commas to add to the sentence, just write NC. You do not need to write the entire sentence out.

1. Charlie Jack and Kyle walk home from school together every Monday Wednesday and Friday.

2. Our teacher gave reading math and science homework.

3. My favorite Disney movies are *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King*.

4. If you want to play soccer you have to love running kicking and getting kicked in the shins.

5. The first time I went to New York City I saw a Broadway play climbed to the top of the Statue of Liberty and went on a horse drawn carriage ride through Central Park.

Commas in a Series Answer Key

1. Charlie, Jack, Monday, Wednesday,
2. reading, math,
3. Dwarfs, Beast,
4. soccer, running, kicking,
5. City, play, Liberty,

Step 8: Copy the “**Parallel Structure Notes**” below into your notebook and then complete the “**Practice Writing Appositives**” in your notebook as well. Don’t cheat and look at the answers until you are finished with the practice

Parallel Structure Notes

Write the following sentence in your notebook:
I like running, fishing, and to ski.

Now ask yourself, “Is that sentence you just copied into your notebook good as it is, or does it need to be fixed?”

If you think it is good as it is, just write **Correct** under the sentence. If you think it needs to be fixed, **rewrite the correct version in your notebook.**

This is what it should look like:

I like running, fishing, and skiing.

This is called **Parallel Structure.**

Parallel structure is the term writers use to describe similar ideas expressed in similar ways.

The Quick Explanation

Readers read more fluently when they can anticipate what will come next in a sentence or passage. Parallel structure fulfills what good readers anticipate. When a writer presents a series of ideas, readers expect them to be stated in the same way. When they are not, the reader experiences a mild "confusion" that hinders reading comprehension.

Step 9: Copy the “**Semi-Colon and Colon Notes**” below into your notebook. Then **complete** the “**Semi-Colon and Colon Practice**” and check your answers using the answer key.

Semi-Colon and Colon Notes

Semi-colon = combining two separate sentences to show a relationship.

It looks like this ;

Here’s a good example –

I have a big test tomorrow; I can’t go out tonight.

This is not a good example –

I have a big test tomorrow; my cat likes pickles.

Colon = when you want to list things or introduce something.

It looks like this :

This is a good example:

When you go to the store, can you pick up the following items:
bread, milk, egg, and cheese.

Semi-Colon and Colon Practice

Directions: Number 1-10 in your notebook. Do NOT skip lines. Label this “Semi-colon and Colon Practice”. For each example below, put the word that comes before **and** after the semi-colon or colon. Do NOT write out the entire sentence.

Semi-Colons ;

- 1) There has been another terrorist attack in Paris six are known dead.
- 2) Tuition for the music school is not high moreover, many scholarships are available.
- 3) The pastel drawings are lovely however, they should be sprayed with a fixative.
- 4) The football team won the game they moved into third place.
- 5) I love to read books I spend a lot of time in the library.

Colons :

- 6) You will need these supplies glue, scissors, and paste.

7) Senator Gary Hawkins said the following “We must stop cutbacks in education, sanitation, and welfare.”

8) At 8 00 all beds should be made, and at 8 45 everyone should be finished eating.

9) The following announcement came over the loud speaker “All new students, exchange students, and visitors should report to the office.”

10) Please pick up these things bread, milk, and butter.

Semi-colon and Colon Answer Key

1. Paris; six
2. high; moreover
3. lovely; however
4. game; they
5. books; I
6. supplies: glue
7. following: “We”
8. 8:00, 8:45
9. speaker: “All”
10. things: bread

Step 10: Write the rough draft of your essay **in your notebook first**. *Try incorporating as many skills from this packet as you can into this piece. It will only make the piece and your grade better. The skills you should use are:* Organizing a Paragraph, Commas in a Series, Parallel Structure, Semi-Colons/Colons.

Step 11: Proofread and revise your rough draft.

Step 12: Type up the **final copy** of your **Career Choice Essay** to look like the sample you read earlier.

Step 13: Submit the essay to Google Classroom by the deadline on the calendar.