



# STUDENT CAREER ESSAY

## WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Do you see yourself as the next great American inventor? Maybe you're thinking about becoming a lawyer, an architect, a filmmaker or a photographer. There are as many career options out there as there are stars in the sky, so when it comes to your future — think big!

You may change your mind about a career as you get older, but it's important to have information about all types of careers as early in life as possible. Whatever you want to do, education beyond high school can help you make the most of your life.

You can find information on all types of careers, and the education and training needed for each, at the websites listed on the back of this page. You can explore other resources, or read about or talk with someone who does this type of work, to find out even more about what you want to be.

After you've researched the career you're interested in, follow the instructions for writing an essay.

## DREAM BIG! THE FUTURE IS WAITING FOR YOU.

### ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

- The essay should be 200 to 300 words. (That's about as long as the top half of this page.)
- Be creative — make up your own title.
- Tell us what career is of interest to you and why.

- What type of education or training will you need for the career?
- What are the opportunities for this type of work in the future?
- Tell us what steps you took to learn about the career.
- Don't forget to pay attention to spelling and grammar while writing the essay.

### *Written an essay for our program before?*

- Don't reuse an essay you've submitted before.
- If you're still interested in the same career, tell us what you've learned since the last essay. If you have another career in mind, tell us about that one.
- Remember to still include the other information under Essay Instructions.

### ESSAY TIPS

- Include only your first name on the essay.
- Help us protect your privacy — please don't include your last name or other personal information, such as your current age, grade, school and city, when writing the essay.
- Use your own words. If you quote a source, keep it brief, and be sure to use quotation marks and say where the quote comes from.

## HELPFUL CAREER WEBSITES

### CAREERONESTOP

[www.careeronestop.org/studentsandcareeradvisors/explorecareersstudents.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/studentsandcareeradvisors/explorecareersstudents.aspx)

Identify your interests and skills to find a career fit. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

### MY NEXT MOVE

[www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org)

Describe your dream career in a few words or answer questions about work you might enjoy. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, and developed by the National Center for O\*NET Development.

### CAREER EXPLORATION

[www.bls.gov/k12/students/careers/career-exploration.htm](http://www.bls.gov/k12/students/careers/career-exploration.htm)

Explore careers that relate to your interests. From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

[www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

Search by occupation group, or search by pay, education, training and growth rate, to find information for hundreds of different careers. From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### TEXAS REALITY CHECK

[www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com)

Find out how much money you might need when you're out on your own and which careers will pay for those needs. From the Labor Market and Career Information Department of the Texas Workforce Commission.

### TEXAS CAREER CHECK

[www.texascareercheck.com/home/explorecareers](http://www.texascareercheck.com/home/explorecareers)

Explore the world of work based on your likes and interests. Search by career title, occupation trends and more. From the Labor Market and Career Information Department of the Texas Workforce Commission.

### CAREERSHIP®

[www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/)

Match your career interests, review careers by clusters (occupations and industries that share common features) or search by keyword. Service of Mapping Your Future, a non-profit organization.