

Student Exercises/Homework Assignments

Note to Instructor: You may want to break up the numbered items below into several exercises. We encourage you to offer these as homework assignments a student may work on with their parent/guardian. More grade specific exercises can be found in the Curriculum Framework chapter of the FutureConnect Orientation Manual.

1. Enter www.FutureConnect.org and conduct a career search from the Career Center located on the upper right hand side of the FutureConnect homepage.

Please complete the table below using these steps:

- a. Think about 3 occupations you are interested in and write them next to the bold typed numbers (like “1. Engineer,” “2. Truck Driver,” “3. Medical Assistant”)
- b. Fill in your best guess on average pay, average top pay and whether or not you think the occupations will be experiencing growth in the future.

Now that you have written your best guess about 3 occupations, let’s see if you were correct:

- c. You should research the same three careers using the “Job Research” tool located under the Career Center heading. After clicking “Job Research,” you should enter the occupation and your state in the appropriate spaces and then click “submit.” An Occupational Report can then be selected.
- d. Observe the pay information in the occupational table. Write it into the table below.
- e. Observe the second occupational table (located under the first report table), labeled “Growth Rate” and enter the rate into the table below.

Occupation	Average Starting Pay (lower 10%)	Average Top Pay (upper 90%)	Expected Growth Rate Through 2010 (yes or no)
<i>List three</i>	<i>Guess</i>	<i>Guess</i>	<i>Guess</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
	<i>From lookup</i>	<i>From lookup</i>	<i>From lookup</i>
1.			Surprised? (Yes or No)
2.			
3.			

Did you guess correctly? Were you pleasantly surprised or disappointed to discover the pay potential of each occupation?

2. Learn more about at least one occupation. From the Occupational Report in the prior exercise, select the “Outlook” link above the first table.
 - a. List three significant points about the selected occupation
 - b. What kind of education or training is recommended for people pursuing this field?
 - c. Does the occupation you are researching have an association or union? Use an Internet Search Engine – i.e. “[Occupation Name] Association” to find and list them. These can be an excellent source of information (many associates offer scholarships, internships, etc.)
 - d. List one positive and one negative aspect to working in this occupation.

Note: You can also find this information listed under the “World of Work” link located in the Career Center.

3. I used the following FutureConnect.org tools:

<input type="checkbox"/> Career Center	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> College/trade school Search	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> Ask virtual instructor/coach	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> Profile	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> My Achievements/Stats	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Interest	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail Center	To do what?
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Websites	To do what?

4. Write a one-page description of how school will help you achieve success in the careers you researched. For example: What school courses will be most important to master? Why? Try to describe how each school course can help you succeed in your occupation of interest.
5. Using the www.futureconnect.org Profile tool:
 - a. Print a resume
 - b. What categories, (like “Volunteer Work” or “Work Experience”), were left blank?
 - c. Why do you think it is important to gain experience in as many of the categories as possible?

6. Using the www.futureconnect.org school search tool and/or the Internet, list three schools or training programs that offer a major or training suitable for at least one occupation of your choice:

Occupation _____

Schools 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

7. Name one person who might be able to help you select or research a career.

*** Attach this worksheet to your FutureConnect Student Portfolio (located under the 3rd red button entitled, Portfolio” on the left-hand side of the FutureConnect homepage.**