**UNIT II: The Occupational Profile Project (200 point)**

This project requires that students consider genre and documentation style requirements of informational research writing. Students are required to maintain an objective tone while writing about a topic of personal interest: their future occupations. Students also must consider general writing conventions as they write.

**Occupation Profile Project (an informative research project)**

(Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, & 12)

Created by Deborah Morris

For this project, you will research a **specific** occupation. Vague, generalized information or a list of facts about a general field will not do! So, if you want to be a teacher, research some specifics for the subject area and/or grade level that you would like to teach. If you want to be a nurse, research details within the type of nursing or the specialty area of nursing that interests you. Or, if you are interested in entering the business field, research a specific sector of the business world that fascinates you. This project is designed to allow you to make new discoveries about a specific area or an available option within the occupation or profession for which you are currently studying and training. This project requires that you go beyond a mere dictionary definition of an occupation; instead, you must delve deep and discover some specifics about what makes your chosen occupation one that is worth pursuing. And, if you have not yet chosen a future career, this project will give you a chance to research a possible occupation that interests you.

**Learning Objectives**

\*T o understand and develop your personal writing process

\*To use informative writing strategies, including defining & describing

\*To learn about personal interviews and the subsequent use of the information obtained from an interview

\*To learn effective research skills and strategies

\*To create an appropriate thesis for the particular rhetorical situation of the assignment

\*To use sources ethically & responsibly

\*To recognize and understand the difference between general & specific explanations

\*To maintain an objective tone in your writing while writing about a topic that has personal relevance

This project builds on previous projects, on material that you have read in chapters 8, 16, 21, 35-36, 40, & 42-50 in *The Norton Field Guide to Writing* textbook, along with ideas from classroom discussions and in-class activities.

**Assignment Specifics**

For your informative research/profile, you will need to . . .

* **Focus on specific details** about your chosen occupation in order to define it. (ie. you must go beyond a basic dictionary-type definition and show what this occupation truly entails)
* **Explain interesting & important aspects** of this job, aspects that others might not realize.
* **Research the educational requirements and costs** associated with your chosen occupation
* **Look into future projections** about your chosen occupation. *What are the prospects for opportunities in the field for the next five, ten, or twenty years*?
* **Research the rate of pay** that you can expect within your field. *Does it fluctuate over time? Will your rate of pay be based on your performance on the job, or on the length of your employment? Does the location affect your rate of pay? Are benefits generally included as well?*

**You are expected to use multiple sources for this project!** Your research **must** include:

1. A **personal interview** with an individual who is currently working in your specific, chosen field
2. An **article from a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal** or trade journal from the chosen field
3. **Data/statistics** from the Occupational Outlook handbook. It can be found at: [www.bls.gov/OCO](http://www.bls.gov/OCO)

Your Occupation Profile Research project should be **four to six double-spaced pages** (approx. 1,000 to 1,500 words). **Times New Roman (size 12) font** should be used. **Correct MLA or APA format** should also be used. A copy of your interview questions that has been signed by the interviewee is a requirement for this project and must be turned in with your final draft.

**Grading Criteria**

A strong Occupation Profile project is one that . . .

* Provides an effective profile of the chosen profession/occupation
* Demonstrates more than a generalized knowledge or understanding of the occupation
* Exhibits effective use of required sources and synthesis of the information and ideas from secondary research and interview
* Includes strong, well-developed paragraphs, transitions smoothly between ideas, uses effective organizational strategies, and fulfills the requirements for the project
* Fulfills all of the requirements for this particular projects, along with the general requirements for ENG 111 assignments