

Pacific Charter Institute
English 9-12
Career Mini Research Paper

Type of Paper: Career Research Paper

Purpose: Effectively describe a profession by telling what that career/occupation involves, the benefits and the drawbacks of the career, and how one enters into that field.

What Makes a Good Topic: A career that you might pursue in the future or that you have an interest in now.

Content: You will examine four areas in your paper:

1. A thorough description of the career (varieties of responsibilities, tasks, brief history, etc)
2. The benefits and rewards
3. The negative aspects
4. The method of becoming a part of this field (schooling needed, internships, entry level work, etc.)

Research Paper Guidelines

Format: MLA (models of this to follow)
type your paper using Times New Roman, Arial, or Verdana
12 point font, double space
no extra spaces between paragraphs
one-inch margins on all sides
indent paragraphs five spaces (or use the tab key once)
number the pages in the top right hand corner of each page by typing your last name followed by a space and then the page number; e.g., Jones 2

Organization:
Your paper should be in this order:
Title Page
Outline
Body: 2-3 pages (numbered as stated above)
Works Cited Page

*DO NOT put your paper in a folder or cover. Simply staple the pages together with one staple in the upper left hand corner.

Guidelines Regarding Sources

1. Your paper must include **three** sources. Each must be cited in your paper at least once. You must have at least three quotations in your paper.

2. Required:

Book

Recommended:

Expert Interview

Other choices:

Newspaper Article

Journals/Magazine Article

Pamphlet

Television Program

Website

Do Your Research!

Use this page as an easy way to keep track of your sources so that you only have to record the works cited information once as you go about your research. This way, instead of recording all the bibliographic information each time you copy down a quote or idea, you will only need to write the corresponding letter below and the page number.

List of Sources [Include all that apply: author, title, publisher, place, date]

A.

B.

C.

D.

Use the following pages to take notes bullet-style while you are researching your topic. **Don't forget to indicate the letter of your source and the page number!**

Section 1

Description of Career

(variety of responsibilities, tasks, activities; skills needed; brief history, etc.)

Section 2

Benefits and Rewards

Section 3

Negative Aspects

Section 4**Method of Becoming a Part of this Field**

(education or training, internships, special abilities, etc.)

Working Outline

The purpose of a working outline is to help you begin to organize your thoughts. As you see your paper start to take shape a larger picture should emerge. You will get an idea of how all the parts of your paper relate to each other and how to best arrange the sections, paragraphs, and sentences. Include the most important/most interesting facts and ideas from each category, as well as one quotation from your research in support of each section.

Thesis: (a summary of what you think about this career)

Job Description: (begin with brief history)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Quote:

Career Benefits:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Quote:

Career Negatives:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Quote:

What does a person need to do to prepare for this career?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Quote:

Ideas for Conclusion:

Formal Outline

Thesis: _____

Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. Hook
 - B. Definition of career
- II. History of Career
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
- III. Description
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
- IV. Benefits
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
- V. Negative Aspects
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
- VI. Required schooling and/or training
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
- VII. Conclusion

Type your formal outline following the above format!

Student ii

- C. Creativity
- III. Negative Aspects
 - A. Salary
 - B. Inflexible hours
 - C. Grading
 - D. Respect
- V. Required schooling and/or training
 - A. Four year degree
 - B. Student teaching
 - C. CBEST
 - D. Continuing education
- VI. Conclusion

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Works Cited

Anderson, Kelli. "Going to the Dowgs." Sports Illustrated 15 Nov. 1999: 116-19.

Devitt, Terry. "Flying High." The Why Files. 9 Dec. 1999. University of Wisconsin, Board of Regents. 4 Jan. 2000
<<http://whyfiles.news.wisc.edu/shorties/kite.html>>.

Hamilton, Calvin J. Views of the Solar System. 12 Nov, 1999.
<<http://solarviews.com/eng/homepage.htm>>.

O'Connell, Amanda. Telephone Interview. 7 Jan. 2004.

Roberts, Simon, et al. The Complete Java 2 Certification Study Guide. Alameda, CA: Sybex, 1999.

Student 1

Ima Student
 Ms. Teacher
 English 9, Period 3
 15 March 2004

Computing Careers

Computing careers are not just for geeks! It is easy to succeed in a computing career with the proper training. Job availability is only one of the reasons people choose to enter this field. Though the economy has slowed, experts in the field of computing still claim:

The employment outlook... is actually sunny--as long as you have the right credentials. Skilled professionals, engineers--anyone who carries around a lot of technical knowledge and expertise--can probably choose among multiple job offers these days. (Aley)

Other reasons to join the exciting world of computing

Student 2

include: money, technology, and career advancement. A computing career commands a high salary and respect. Though a career in computing may seem undesirable to some, it has its own rewards.

Computing careers started in the mid-1900s and have been in high demand ever since, due mostly to the industrial world's demands for increased efficiency. The first computers were massive pieces of machinery. For instance, the first calculator, built in 1943 by Howard Aiken, was 51 feet long (White). It was a mass of switchboards, electromagnetic relays, paper tape readers, and keyboards. Computer technicians had to be constantly present to fix errors, change paper tapes, and run the switches. Theirs was a physically active job because the machinery was so huge. As computers evolved, the role of

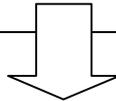
(Silly) Sample:**I Want to be a...Pirate!****Sample List of Sources:**

(list all the information but don't worry about having the format "perfect")

A. Sir Francis Drake: The Queen's Pirate Harry Kelsey New Haven Yale University Press 2000

B. ABC News "Modern Day Pirates Threaten More Than the High Seas Charlotte Sector"
 <<http://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=1300344#.T7Fp246Fgmw>>
 13 May 2012

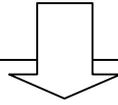
C. Captain Hook Telephone Interview 10 May 2012

**Sample Notes:****Section 1****Description of Career**

(variety of responsibilities, tasks, activities; skills needed; brief history, etc.)

- began over 2000 years ago in Ancient Greece, when sea robbers threatened the trading routes of Ancient Greece (A 42)
- piracy really flourished between 1620 and 1720; period is known as the golden age of piracy (C)
- governments discovered the advantages of pirates and used them to attack and pillage ships of enemy nations. Pirates shared their profits with the government. (A 40)
- must be skilled seamen able to endure harsh conditions (C)
- must be able to board ships by jamming the rudder with wooden wedges so that the ship can not be steered; then use grappling hooks to board the ship, heavily armed with pistols and other weapons (A 43)

ETC...

**Sample Working Outline:**

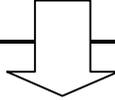
Thesis: Piracy has changed over the years but, despite its difficulties, it is still a fulfilling career.

Job Description: (begin with brief history)

1. early history of pirates: from Ancient Greece to the Vikings to famous pirates like Blackbeard and Captain Hook—all criminals, punished by death when caught (C)
2. profession somewhat legitimized when kings and queens used pirates to help their nations gain superiority--example of Queen Elizabeth and Sir Francis Drake (A 40)

etc...

Quote: “Piracy began over 2000 years ago in Ancient Greece, when sea robbers threatened the trading routes of Ancient Greece. Since then, this threat has continued amongst seafaring nations ever since, until the birth of regular navies.” (A 38)



Sample Final Paper

Read the example below, not so that you'll be encouraged to become a pirate, but so that you can see how to smoothly and legally give credit to the sources that provided the information for your paper. If it's a general statement or summary of ideas, you don't need to cite it. But--any direct words, or any specific fact or idea that you learned from someone else must be cited, or acknowledged. The parenthetical notation indicates the author and page number, the specifics of which are provided on your "Works Cited" page.

Sally Student

Student 1

Ms. Teacher

English 9

25 May 2012

A Pirate's Life for Me!

"Yo ho, yo ho! A pirate's life for me!" These words echo the desires of many young children. The increasing popularity of the ride, "The Pirates of the Caribbean," gave rise to the recent movie of the same name. Idealizing "a pirate's life" is easily understandable; the life of a pirate is one of adventurous freedom. In this sense, piracy is one of the most desirable careers for children and adults alike. Yet, most people do not consider piracy as a practical career option. For some, the illegality and seeming danger of piracy are too much. However, a pirate's life is not as lawless as it appears to the average person. In fact, pirates are required to abide by a code of conduct and hierarchy of authority aboard their ship. In addition to the pillaging and plundering often associated with their career, pirates must also complete their share of chores in order to keep the ship in running order. Indeed, piracy is a serious career and not just the fun and games that many imagine. As a pirate, one faces death on a daily basis. The life of a pirate is indeed one of many challenges and rewards.

Student 2

This career has changed significantly since its early beginnings off the coast of Greece. For hundreds of years, pirates were a vague fear for sailors and coastal cities. More glorified bandits than the pirates one thinks of today, these pirates of old were limited by the reach of their ships and their need to return to port frequently (Kelsey 43). This made their identities difficult to conceal and as a result, early pirates were often found and brought to justice, which was almost always death (Hook). It was not until governments discovered the advantages of using pirates as mercenaries that the profession was somewhat legitimized (Kelsey 21). Kings and queens used pirates to help their nations gain superiority, the best example of which is Queen Elizabeth and Sir Francis Drake (Kelsey 22). Nowadays, pirates use heavy-duty weapons and have ties to organized crime. Piracy is not just a legend from days long past, but is a trend that many consider to be dangerous which is still thriving in parts of the world.

Despite all the work involved, being a professional pirate is a highly enjoyable career. Of the many activities that pirates engage in, nearly all are rewarding and fulfilling. Between the job itself and its many benefits, it is not difficult to understand why so many choose this honorable career.

One of the myriad benefits of piracy is the beautiful outdoor environment. The open sea calls to pirates in a way nothing else does. They are free to sail in any direction they choose. Whether the sun is shining, giving pirates the opportunity to get a tan on deck, or it is storming, there is always something to appreciate about the deep sea. The ocean also makes temperatures milder. This leads to fewer illnesses aboard ship (Howard 69). In addition, when the ship docks at a port, pirates are free to enjoy the best of the city's tourist attractions. In this way, pirates experience the best of land and sea.

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One advantage to professional piracy is that each new pirate is given a baby parrot at his pirate initiation. This parrot will not only be his closest friend in the years to come, it will also be his ally (Hook). Anyone who has seen *Pirates of the Caribbean* knows that a parrot can be an invaluable partner in any situation. For instance, if one were to drop his treasure map in a deep well, a parrot could fly down to fish it out for him. In addition, parrots eat the leftover food on the ship. This helps to prevent pollution as the pirates do not have to dump their waste overboard (Sector 2). The advantages of a parrot are indeed great.

Pirates also receive a dashing new wardrobe as part of their initiation. The stripped stockings alone would cost over ten dollars (Sector 2). The rest of the pirate wardrobe consists of many interesting accessories that are not available to the general public. Pirates do not even have to purchase those items that they are not given. Often, they are able to steal smaller articles such as sashes and earrings (Hook). Thus a pirate can wear clothing that is inexpensive, while yet fashionable. According to Matt Gordon, a piracy scholar at the University of West Valley, "...the popularity of pirate fashion is unrivaled" (47). This trend will most likely continue over the years to come (Gordon 49), making piracy an even more desirable career. Unfortunately, there are a few negatives to piracy. The job is often grueling, with many hardships that the common man would not immediately realize. In order to persevere across the vast and dangerous sea, a pirate must be hearty and hale.

One of the challenges faced by pirates is the lack of fresh food while crossing the sea. In particular, the lack of citrus fruits, a significant source of vitamin C (ascorbic acid), can lead to the onset of scurvy. This is dangerous because "Ascorbic acid is important in the formation of collagen (an element of normal tissues), and any deficiency interferes with normal tissue

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synthesis” (National Association for Scurvy Awareness and Prevention). In order to prevent this dangerous malady, pirates must often make unplanned stopovers to purchase fresh citrus. These stopovers increase the occurrence of another drawback in a pirate’s life: fighting. Though the battles at sea are often enjoyable, land battles are often treacherous and cannot result in an honorable death. To die on land is disgraceful in the pirate code.

Unfortunately battles do not only end in death. Sometimes pirates are injured. Some injuries are more acceptable than others. For instance, it is a sign of respect to have a wooden leg or missing eye. Yet if one loses an arm or both legs he is useless aboard ship and may be forced into early retirement (Hook). Few pirates can imagine a more terrible fate.

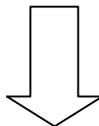
It takes many years of on-the-job training to become a pirate. Basically anyone who demonstrates the physical and mental stamina for the job can present himself as a potential pirate. Once a tight crew of promising pirates is assembled, they can pool their money and buy a boat - nothing special, just a floatable fixer-upper. From this vessel, the newly formed pirate crew would prey on small consumer crafts and fishing rigs and with the profits, they would slowly upgrade their equipment (Sector). In his interview, Hook explains, “Pirates must allow roughly three to four years of small time looting and upgrading until he and his crew will have a high-powered death ship, fully equipped with state of the art weaponry that will instill fear in large ships.” With hard work and perseverance, pirates can become fearsome and rich.

Becoming a successful pirate is no easy task; yet, for those that the sea calls, the freedom and valuable treasure gained through piracy make all the grueling work worthwhile. Even swabbing the deck can be an enjoyable task when one’s mind is focused on the pillaging of the days ahead. Just like the rest of society, pirates balance the exciting with the ordinary; some

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days bring great rewards and satisfaction while other days are disappointing. Pirates are able to cope with this state far better than most, however, for a pirate always knows that he has chosen his own destiny. Certainly, this freedom of choice is the greatest pirate treasure.

And finally...the Works Cited Page! Indentation, punctuation, capitalization and spacing are all important!



CITING SOURCES

From MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 6th ed.

*Work cited lists are alphabetized by the first element in each entry, i.e. Author, Title, etc.
FOLLOW THE MODELS EXACTLY, right down to the last period!*

BOOK BY SINGLE AUTHOR:

Fukuyama, Francis. Our Revolution. New York: Farrar, 2002.

BOOK BY TWO OR MORE AUTHORS:

Eggins, Suzanne, and Diane Slade. Analysing Casual Conversation. London: Cassell, 1997.

AN ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE BOOK (Dictionary, Encyclopedia, etc.)

“Mandarin.” The Encyclopedia Americana. 2007 ed.

"China". World Almanac 2002. World Almanac, Inc., 2001. pp 864-865.

Le Patourel, John. “Normans and Normandy.” Dictionary of the Middle Ages. Ed. Joseph R. Strayer. 13 vols. New York: Scribner’s, 1987.

MAGAZINES:

Metha, Pratap Bhanu. “Exploding Myths.” New Republic 6 June 1998: 17-19.

NEWSPAPERS:

Jeromack, Paul. “David of the Art World.” New York Times 13 July 2002, late ed.: B7+.

A PERSONAL INTERVIEW (*in person, telephone, email*)

Parker, Alvin F. Telephone interview. 10 Dec. 2010.

A DOCUMENT FROM AN INTERNET SITE:

“City Profile: San Francisco.” CNN.com. 2004. Cable News Network. 14 May 2008
<<http://www.cnn.com/TRAVEL/atevo/city/SanFrancisco/intro.html>>.

“Selected Seventeenth-Century Events.” Romantic Chronology. Ed. Laura Mandell and Alan Liu. 1999. U of California, Santa Barbara. 22 Jun 2010 <<http://english.ucsb.edu:591/rchrono/>>.

Jane Austen Information Page. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 6 Sept. 2005. 15 June 2010
<<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/janeinfo.html>>.

date of access

