

Name _____

ASSIGNMENT 1

Match Interests and Careers

1. Do the activities listed in the Assignments box.
2. Type in your work in the spaces provided below.



Assignments	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 1: Match Interests and Careers	

Assignment 1: Match Interests and Careers

<p>1. Read pages 1–3 of this edition of the <i>Jobs of the Future</i> student magazine. You'll find out about students who are getting paid to learn!</p>	Page 3
<p>2. Complete the Discover Apprenticeships activity sheet using what you learned from the magazine.</p>	Page 6
<p>3. Read the Make a Career Match activity sheet. In the space below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ pair the teens with the apprenticeships that best meet their interests○ explain your decisions, using persuasive writing and evidence from the text to support your choices <p>Jayden:</p>	Page 7

Mia:

Christina:

4. **Complete** the career interests sheet.

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5. **Exit Ticket:** In the space below, **write a journal entry** in which you:

- describe the careers that interest you most
- explain how your interests connect with the careers you are interested in

For Families: Discuss Future Careers

Discuss careers with your family members—and use the resources to investigate youth apprenticeships you may be able to have in the future.

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JOBS OF THE FUTURE

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INSIDE APPRENTICESHIPS

How to gain
real-world
experience
(AND GET PAID!)

"I'M GETTING PAID TO LEARN!"

You don't have to wait until you're a grown-up to start exploring careers—or earning money. BY GAIL O'CONNOR

Imagine you're 16 and deciding what courses you want to take in school. You have a choice: another class, or a job in a real workplace with perks like your own computer, cool coworkers, and a paycheck. Sound like a dream? It's real!

Apprenticeships are programs that combine job training with legit work experience. Youth apprenticeships in particular give teens a head start on a future career while still in high school. An apprenticeship is a way to learn—and earn at the same time—by getting job training, income, an industry-recognized credential (which shows employers you've mastered some serious skills), and even free college credits in some cases. "It's a great combination of real-world and traditional learning, and it gives students experience without locking them into any one path," says John Keckhaver, youth apprenticeship

coordinator in the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

Apprenticeships have been around a long time for skilled trade jobs like electrician, carpenter, and plumber. Now they're also pathways to careers in information technology (IT), cybersecurity, financial services, health care, engineering, and others. Youth apprenticeships build a foundation for workplace success and options after high school, such as college, full-time work, or a combination of both.

Of course, you may not know what you want to do when you grow up. (Totally fine—you're only in middle school!) What can you do now? Ask adults questions about their work, or do a "job shadow" spending a workday with someone. "Just enjoy learning and exploring, and notice what is interesting to you," says Keckhaver. Start by meeting the teen apprentices in this magazine!

"I FEEL AHEAD OF THE GAME"

Valerie Gallegos | age 16 | junior

Financial services apprentice

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

I went to a career fair because I wanted a summer job. I met with Geotech, a company that makes environmental equipment. They partner with CareerWise Colorado, an apprentice program. They had me come in to learn more, and I started apprenticing in financial services.

IS IT DIFFERENT FROM AN INTERNSHIP?

An internship is usually for a short period. My supervisors wanted me to understand that the apprenticeship program would be a longer-term



commitment and would help me gain skills and experience I'd keep building on while getting paid. I'm in a three-year program and currently in accounts payable, where I double-check payments and flag any mistakes. Next I'll train to work directly with vendors.

ARE YOU ABLE TO BALANCE SCHOOL AND YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Yes, because my apprenticeship hours are flexible. I'm a very involved student: I'm in student council, an honor student, and the captain for the varsity girls basketball team. From being around other adults, I've learned to use my phone calendar and reminders to keep on top of everything.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

After graduation I'd like to go to a four-year college and take accounting classes to expand on what I've learned in my apprenticeship. I'm so glad to have this experience on my résumé, get paid to do something I enjoy, and already be on a career path!

“I’M WIRING TRANSFORMERS AND I LOVE IT”

Morgan Zinn | age 18 | senior

Mechatronics apprentice

WHAT DREW YOU TO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

My school counselor knew I wasn’t a student who liked being in school for eight hours a day and suggested a youth apprenticeship program. I started with a youth apprenticeship in industrial maintenance at Kaysun, an injection molding company that makes complex plastic parts. I’ve moved up to registered apprentice there in mechatronics (a branch of engineering that focuses on electrical and mechanical systems).

WHAT’S SOMETHING YOU’RE PROUD OF?

I had just wired a transformer. I went to plug it in and found I had really weird, unsteady voltages. I thought my wiring was wrong, but the more I investigated, I found it was a faulty transformer. It was the first major troubleshooting I did by myself.



WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING AN APPRENTICE?

I’ve found out, very young, what I want to do with my life. I never dread getting up for work, even at 4:30 a.m. I’m having experiences that I can’t learn in the classroom. I love my job because I’m never doing the same thing two days in a row.

“I GET TO DESIGN GAS LINES”

Airianna Morquecho | age 18 | senior

Design apprentice

WHAT DO YOU DO AS AN APPRENTICE?

I work at We Energies, a big electrical and natural gas company. I work with five other apprentices and we get a lot of training, starting with little projects then moving to bigger ones, like designing new gas lines to people’s homes. I also get to go on site visits. One really fun one was helping to update electrical lines in a neighborhood known as Candy Cane Lane, to make sure there was enough power for everyone’s holiday lights!

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU LEARNED?

I’ve learned things that I can use forever, like how to send a good email, how to introduce myself, public speaking, professionalism, and being on time to work. Those lessons have



carried over to my life at home too—I started to take my chores more seriously, which my mom is really happy about.

DID YOU HAVE ANY FEARS GOING INTO YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

I worried about how it might affect my school life. But it turns out my grades have gotten higher! I’m more on time at school and with my deadlines because of how responsible I need to be for my job.

ANY PERKS?

Yes! I get to keep a hard hat, safety vest, safety glasses, steel-toed boots, and a bag.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR YOU?

I plan on attending a technical college while staying in the apprentice program, which is going to pay some of my tuition. Then I might transfer to a university. I’m the only girl apprentice here. I hope to convince more to check it out!

THE HOTTEST FIELDS RIGHT NOW

Today apprenticeships lead to many kinds of careers. Here are some of the fastest-growing fields that offer youth apprenticeships—maybe right near you!



Information Technology and Cybersecurity



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)



Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace



Finance and Business



Health Sciences



A/V Technology, Graphic Design, and Telecommunications



Energy



Architecture and Construction



Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources



Hospitality, Lodging, and Tourism



Transportation

Discover Apprenticeships



Read the article and career profiles in the Jobs of the Future magazine. Then answer the questions below. Keep in mind the following things as you read:

- Pay attention to keywords and use context clues to define them.
- Aim to identify the main idea(s) and supporting details.
- Try to summarize each section in your head to check for understanding.

Keyword	How would you define this term in your own words?
apprenticeship	
occupation	
career	

1. What is the purpose of a youth apprenticeship?

2. How have traditional apprenticeships evolved to reflect the modern world?

3. In what ways do youth apprenticeships provide valuable opportunities for students?

4. Why is it important to explore multiple careers?

Name _____

MAKE A CAREER MATCH

Read each person's skills and interests along with the apprenticeship profiles to determine which program would be the best fit for each student. Be prepared to explain your thinking.

JAYDEN

Jayden isn't sure what his dream job is but wants to learn about the business world. He loves to interact with people and enjoys public speaking. His hobbies showcase his creativity and artistic flair.

APPRENTICESHIP PROFILE Ready to learn about health care?

Seeking a self-motivated high school student with solid communication skills and an interest in health. Will work with a mentor to learn all aspects of patient care, including designing treatment plans.

MIA

Mia is a math whiz who loves computer games. She recently learned how to code and is interested in exploring jobs that involve programming. She likes coming up with new ideas and solving problems.

APPRENTICESHIP PROFILE Junior marketers wanted

Open to rising juniors (16 and older). Position offers a unique opportunity to rotate through various departments for on-site training. Ideal for a creative self-starter eager to contribute to a variety of projects. Will earn a marketing certificate.

CHRISTINA

Christina's favorite subject is science. She is fascinated with how the human body works and excels at soccer and basketball. She prefers hands-on activities and loves to tutor younger kids in her spare time.

APPRENTICESHIP PROFILE Seeking cybersecurity sleuth

Looking for a high school junior or senior who wants to learn about cyberattacks and how to design security solutions. Great training plus work experience to build information technology skills in a fun, fast-paced work setting.

PART 2

On a separate piece of paper, use your critical-thinking and persuasive writing skills to build a case for why each student is best matched with the program you selected.

TURN YOUR INTERESTS INTO A CAREER!

What occupations might be a match for you? Check the box beside every statement that describes you. They connect to careers that could be right for you, so look out for pathways (like related volunteer work or youth apprenticeships) to those professions!

Developing computer software sounds fun to me!

Computer programmer, web developer, IT technician



Making a new medicine to cure a disease would be amazing.

Pharmaceutical scientist, biologist, chemist, toxicologist



My dream is to write a book or play someday.

Novelist, TV writer, playwright, literary agent



I enjoy helping people work through their personal issues and challenges.

Psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, family therapist



I love to build stuff, like birdhouses and boxes.

Carpenter, contractor, advanced manufacturing engineer



Creating special effects for movies or video games seems super cool.

CGI artist, animator, 3D modeler



I'd like to be able to diagnose patients' illnesses and help them get better.

Nurse practitioner, doctor, nurse, physician assistant



I like being the boss.

Entrepreneur, manager, supervisor



I love being around younger kids and teaching them new things.

Teacher, school counselor, health educator, childcare worker



I have a killer playlist—and I love music enough to make it a whole career.

Singer, composer, music teacher, music therapist, DJ








It's never too soon
for your child to
learn about careers.

DEAR FAMILY,

Your child has been learning about careers and pathways to different occupations as part of the *Jobs of the Future* program from the U.S. Department of Labor. One great way for kids your child's age to start preparing for their future: being aware of opportunities like youth apprenticeships. Different from internships, these paid programs help students set professional goals while providing:

 on-the-job training, experience, and credentials  mentoring opportunities
 a foundation for jump-starting a career

Flip the page for tips on how to have an age-appropriate discussion with your child about the future, and discover apprenticeship opportunities together. ➡

WHAT EXACTLY IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Some people are surprised to learn that apprenticeships are available for occupations in almost every field and that youth apprenticeships, in particular, can give teens an early start on a career with an industry-recognized credential they can take anywhere as proof of their proficiency. Since the legal age to begin work is 16 in most states, youth apprenticeships are typically designed for high school juniors and seniors.

In-demand industries that offer youth apprenticeships: advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, information technology, engineering, and marketing—to name just a few!

START THE CAREER PLANNING CONVERSATION!



CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR STUDENTS TO FAMILY MEMBERS

- What are some of the most important skills you learned on the job?
- Is there any career-related info you wish you had known when you were a student?
- Would you change anything about the position/industry you work in? Why or why not?

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS TO STUDENTS

- How could learning about various types of jobs at an early age benefit you?
- What career paths do you find most interesting?
- How can learning about youth apprenticeships give you a clearer idea of what your next steps should/could be?

+ BONUS

- Reflect on what you've learned together! What insights have you gained?

EXPLORE THESE ONLINE RESOURCES AS A FAMILY

Begin here, and check with your child's school to see if they recommend any other career exploration resources!

- Learn more about apprenticeship and find real job listings of apprenticeships across the country: [apprenticeship.gov](https://www.apprenticeship.gov)
- Find out more about apprenticeships for high school students: [apprenticeship.gov/educators/high-school](https://www.apprenticeship.gov/educators/high-school)
- Get information about industries that have the most new jobs: [bls.gov/ooh/](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/)
- Answer questions about yourself to unlock ideas for careers and apprenticeships, or browse hundreds of careers by industry: [mynextmove.org](https://www.mynextmove.org)