**Alden Hebron High School**

**English III Honors**

**College & Career Research Project**

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**Alden Hebron High School**

**English III Honors**

**College & Career Research Project:**

# Introduction

Over the several weeks you will be completing an essay and project comparing two different career choices. The topic will be centered on your college and career choice(s). You will complete multiple steps as outlined in this packet.

**Topic: College and Career Choice**

You will select a career of your choice and one from the top ten list on Career Cruising and begin to research the path that will lead to a successful placement in this area including education and training to get there. We realize that not every career requires a 4-year degree from a university, so here, college means, but is not limited to,ited to,hips.raining including: certificate programs, vocational training, 2 and 4 year degree programs, milita any form of post-secondary education/training including: certificate programs, vocational training, 2 and 4 year degree programs, military training, and internships.

## Essential Questions

While doing your research, these are the questions to keep in mind about your chosen career and post high school education.

* What kind of skills, activities and interests have you had up to this point in your life that leads you to believe that you will enjoy and be good at the careers you have chosen?
* What type of education, if any, do you need to gain employment in the field of your choice?
* Discuss what type of experience you’d like to have in your college education and why you chose the college, university, technical institution, or military branch that you did.
* Explain what people in the career field of your choice do.
* What kind of life do you have planned out for yourself within the next twenty years and how will the career of your choice allow you accomplish this?

## Objectives

* To explore and compare 2 career fields of interest
* To explore and compare 2 post-secondary educational options
* To evaluate the best career option for yourself
* To better understand post-secondary options

# Components

**Essay: Comparing/Contrast**

Your essay will be arguing why you want to do one of your careers more than the other one. You will need to provide research and evidence about both. We will be reviewing the format of argumentative essays once research is finished, and details on this can be found on pages 8 and 9.

1. Minimum of **5 sources**, which **must** include:

* + Career Cruising Research/Resource for your 2 careers
  + Research from college (military, training, etc.) websites
  + Other reliable sources

2. Paper must be MLA formatted and include a works cited page.

**Project: Weebly**

Based on your essays, you will be creating a website describing your career choices. These will be started *after* the essays have been completed. These will be graded using the project rubric. You will not be required to present these to the class, but your classmates will be going on your websites to see your information. Use the information you have collected to persuade your audience of your career choice and post-secondary plan.  Be sure to use evidence and reasoning to support your claims and develop your ideas. You will work on this after essays are completed and details regarding this can be found on page 10.

**Grading - \*\*The paper and the project will each be worth 60 points\*\***

* The research paper will be assessed with the AHHS Response and Project rubrics which are located on pages 12 and 13.
* Check-ins will also provide points.

# Preliminary Steps: Materials & Brainstorming

**Step 1: Career Cruising**

Go to the Career Cruising website (www.careercruising.com) and take the surveys to discover your Top 10 matching careers.

a. Matchmaker and My Skills Surveys

b. Learning Style Inventory

c. Research the two careers of your choice

**Step 2: Research and Answer Questions**

For your essay and project, make sure that you have answers to the essential questions and to the others about the specifics of your careers and colleges. The specific questions will be in both the career and college sections below.

Use Career Cruising as one source, but you must use **at least 4 more** in your research. Your sources are due with your research answers.

Other helpful resources:

1. Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

2. CollegeBoard.com

# Research Questions

## Career Research

Your research will produce answers to the following questions. Complete research for both careers. **Answer the follow questions on a separate document and include your sources.**

## Career Essential Questions

* What kind of skills, activities and interests have you had up to this point in your life that leads you to believe that you will enjoy and be good at the careers you have chosen?
* What type of education, if any, do you need to gain employment in the field of your choice?
* What kind of life do you have planned out for yourself within the next twenty years and how will the career of your choice allow you accomplish this?

## Career Research Questions

1. What they do: In your own words, write a detailed description for what a person who has this career does.

2. What to learn: What high school courses should you take if you are interested in this career? How much post-secondary education is recommended for this career? Are there any other specific qualifications needed for this job?

3. Money and Outlook: Discuss the earning potential, entry wage, average wage and experienced wage (if given) and the employment outlook and growth rate.

4. Employment: What industries employ people in this career field? How many hours a week would you typically work? Would you work all year long?

## College Research

After determining your career choices, research what kind of education or training is required for each career. You must research **2 different** post-secondary trainings or education to guide your path to each career. Career Cruising offers which colleges and training are applicable to your specific career. **Answer the follow questions on a separate document and include your sources.**

## College Essential Questions

* What type of education, if any, do you need to gain employment in the field of your choice?
* Discuss what type of experience you’d like to have in your college education and why you chose the college, university, technical institution, or military branch that you did.

## College Research Questions

Vital information: Name and address, phone number and web address.

Tuition Expenses/Other Expenses/Estimated Total Cost: To find tuition costs, determine your STATUS of: resident, non-resident, (or some schools offer exchange rate).

Admission Requirements: Include GPA, High School courses required or recommended, and minimum scores for ACT/SAT. Required admission procedures and costs like application fee, student essay, letters of recommendation, deadline dates, etc.

Student Demographics/Academic Information: Enrollment, graduation rate, undergrad/graduate ratio, student/faculty ratio.

Student Life/Athletics/Facilities & Services: Include student activities, sororities/fraternities, clubs, sports, etc. and indicate facilities and services offered

Majors Offered:  Indicate majors that interest you for your career field.

\*\*\*\*Let me know if you are interested in a career that requires a masters or any other advanced degree.

# Top 5 Lists

Once you have finished your research, you must decide which career path you would most like to follow. Once you have done that, complete two “Top 5 Reasons…” for the career and training/education of your choice. Answer these questions:

The “Top 5 Reasons I Want to Become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

* 1-2 reasons need to relate to your future long-term goals or personal vision.
* 1-2 “skills” reasons (math aptitude, good listener, etc.)
* 1-2 “personal enjoyment” reasons (enjoy music, people person, etc.)
* 1-2 money and outlook reasons (earning potential, job security, etc.)

The “Top 5 Reasons I Want to Attend \_\_\_\_\_\_ College/University/Tech School/Military”

* 1-2 reasons need to relate to academics and/or future goals
* 1-2 “social” reasons (awesome football team, community, etc.)
* 1-2 “personal” reasons (close to home, parents attended, etc.)
* 1-2 financial reasons (financial aid, scholarship potential, etc.)

# Writing a Compare/Contrast Essay

This essay will be graded with the **Universal Response Rubric**, but it will follow a slightly different structure even though you will still use MLA format. Below are some notes about this type of essay:

* A **comparison** essay notes either similarities, or similarities and differences.
* A **contrast** essay notes only differences.
* The comparison or contrast should **make a point** or **serve a purpose**. The purpose of this essay is to argue that one subject (career path) is better than the other.
* The **thesis** will present the subjects and indicates which is **better** than the other. For example:
  + What = What are the main aspects that draw you to the college/career path of your choice?
  + Active verb = *proving, indicating, etc.*
  + Idea = Which one is the best choice?
* Do not forget to use **MEL-CON format** for your body paragraphs. Whenever you provide evidence, be sure to analyze the information so that it connects back to your thesis.
* The **same points** should be discussed for both subjects.
* Cite your sources (Fitzgerald 24).
* Include a conclusion and a works cited page.

## Transitional Phrases to Use

* Use detailed topic sentences and the following transition words to make the relationship between your subjects clear to your reader:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Transitions Showing Comparison** | **Transitions Showing Contrast** |
| * In addition to * Correspondingly * Compared to * Similarly * Just as * As well as * Likewise * Same as * At the same time | * However * On the contrary * On the other hand * Even though * In contrast * Although * Unlike * Conversely * Meanwhile |

## Common Organization Structures

* Some common organizational structures include:
  + Subject-by-subject
    - You examine each subject in separate paragraphs. Example: Discussing the career you are less inclined about in your first paragraph and then discussing the one you actually like in the second.
  + Point-by-point
    - You examine one aspect of a subject at the start of a paragraph and then compare/contrast it to the same aspect of a subject in the rest of the paragraph. Example: specific financial benefits of one career and then comparing it to the other.

# Sample Essay Structure

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Point-by-Point** | **Subject-by-Subject** |
| ***Introduction*** | * Attention Getter * Funnel (Background information on specific subject) * Main Points * Thesis:   + What = What are the main aspects that draw you to the college/career path of your choice?   + Active verb = *proving, indicating, etc.*   + Idea = Which one is the best choice? | * Attention Getter * Funnel (Background information on specific subject) * Main Points * Thesis:   + What = What are the main aspects that draw you to the college/career path of your choice?   + Active verb = *proving, indicating, etc.*   + Idea = Which one is the best choice? |
| ***1st Body Paragraph*** | * Transitional Phrase * Topic Sentence/Main Idea – Aspect 1   + *Cats make less of an impact on an owner’s lifestyle* * Topic - Aspect 1: *Cats*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Don’t have to be watched during the day*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Easier to get care if owner travels* * Topic - Aspect 1: *Dogs*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Pack animals shouldn’t be left alone*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Harder to get care when away* * Concluding Sentence | * Transitional Phrase * Topic Sentence/Main Idea – Topic 1   + *Cats are easier and less expensive to care for* * Aspect 1: *Lifestyle*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Don’t have to be watched during the day*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Easier to get care if owner travels* * Aspect 2: *Cost*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Food and health care are usually less expensive*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Less likely to cause property damage* * Aspect 3: *House Accommodations*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Don’t take up much space*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Less intrusive* * Concluding sentence |
| ***2nd Body Paragraph*** | * Transitional Phrase * Topic Sentence/Main Idea **–** Aspect 2   + *Cats are less expensive to own and care for.* * Topic – Aspect 2: *Cats*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Food and health care are usually less expensive*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Less likely to cause property damage* * Topic – Aspect 2: *Dogs*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Food is more expensive*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Over-breeding causes some health problems* * Concluding Sentence | * Transitional Phrase * Topic Sentence/Main Idea – Topic 2   + *Dogs are active and loyally engaging pets* * Aspect 1: *Lifestyle*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Pack animals shouldn’t be left alone*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Harder to get care when away* * Aspect 2: *Cost*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Food is more expensive*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Over-breeding causes some health problems* * Aspect 3: *Accommodations*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Often need yard and fence*   + Evidence & Analysis*: Require more safety and protective measures* * Concluding Sentence |
| ***3rd Body Paragraph*** | * Transitional Phrase * Topic Sentence - Aspect 3   + *Cats need few special house accommodations.* * Topic 1 - Aspect 3: *Cats*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Don’t take up much space*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Less intrusive* * Topic 2 - Aspect 3: *Dogs*   + Evidence & Analysis: *Often need yard and fence*   + Evidence & Analysis*: Require more safety and protective measures* * Concluding Sentence | Develop a paragraph to evaluate the comparison made in the essay: *Last summer, I was considering adopting a pet, so I visited the SPCA to gather more information about cats and dogs. I am a full-time student and work part time in the evenings, so my lifestyle and schedule didn’t seem conducive to owning a dog like I had originally planned. Now that I’ve had my cat Cookie for a few months, I see that she’s the perfect fit and a great companion for me.* |
| ***Conclusion*** | * Restatement of Thesis * Summary of main points * Significance of topic to author: *When considering adopting a pet, a prospective owner must consider the lifestyle, finances, and household accommodations that the pet would require. Owners who neglect to compare these aspects will often not care for their pet in a safe manner.* | * Restatement of Thesis * Summary of main points * Significance of topic to author: *When considering adopting a pet, a prospective owner must consider the lifestyle, finances, and household accommodations that the pet would require. Owners who neglect to compare these aspects will often not care for their pet in a safe manner.* |

# Completing Your Weebly

Using Mrs. Vanderpal’s sample portfolio linked on my website as a template, you will be completing your Weebly for a project. **Only the information for your first-choice college and career need to be included.**

Be as creative as you want. Include videos, pictures, samples of your work, and anything else you think should be included to really make your Weebly stand out. While writing isn’t the main focus here, still make sure everything is clear and utilizes the formal language and skill that I expect of you.

Listed below are each tab that you must have completed for the project:

**Intro**

* Personal Statement: A couple of paragraphs about some of your best qualities.
* Learning Style: Found through Career Cruising
* Interests Inventory
* Extracurricular Activity
* General Interest

**High School Credits**

* Fill in your credits

**Top 5 Reasons**

* Include the different lists you came up for why you want to pursue the career and college that you chose.

**College\*\***

* Create a page detailing all of the research information that you found out about the college\*\* of your choice.
* Format it however you like, but make sure all of the information is included.
* Research questions are found on page 6.

**Career**

* Create a page detailing all of the research information that you found out about the career of your choice.
* Format it however you like, but make sure all of the information is included.
* Research questions are found on page 5.

# Due Dates

*Please use following checklist to “check off” items of your project as you complete them.*

**Project Components Due Date Check\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. College and Career Research and Sources April 26th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Top 5 Reasons May 6th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Essay Rough Draft May 10th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Essay Final Draft May 15th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Completed Website May 23rd \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Universal Response Rubric

# Universal Project Rubric