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## Tech 101-A Self Awareness

### Module 2: Final Project, Manufacturing Culture

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#### Assignment #2 “Interview a Professor/Professional”:

(adapted from Daniel Kies, Dept. of English, College of Dupage)

##### Objective:

Report on the training and education a student must do to prepare for a profession, and then report on what a person must do while working in that profession. Select a professor/guest speaker/industry worker from the career you chose to explore. Email that person to secure an interview.

You needn't know the professor personally. Most professors get emails from students all around the world asking for help for one thing or another. Most professors would be willing to give you 30 minutes writing out answers to your questions, if you were to ask. Once you identify the profession you are interested in studying, then search online for colleges/universities that offer professional degrees or certificates. Find the email addresses of some faculty who teach in that area at different schools. Send a short, polite request asking if that professor will give you information about the type of studies/training in that profession. Send it from your .edu address. Include an attached copy of this assignment, so they can see for themselves why you are asking.

During the interview, using a prepared set of questions, try to discover what that person does in order to attain, keep, and advance in his or her professional life. Some sample questions may (but are not limited to) include:

1. What kind of do professionals in your academic area/subject do?
2. What kind do you require of your students?
3. What is the connection between education/training and industry that you expect from students? What kind of lab/projects do you expect students to perform in order to gain/prove competencies?

##### Audience:

Your classmates and I are your audience for this essay: think of how you want to share your idea with us.

##### Reading:

Find the profession you are investigating in the Occupational Outlook Handbook from the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics website at: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh).

Next, use your favorite search engine to find professional organizations for the professions (you may use your current employer). Search those websites for information about the publications they prepare for those professionals. Find out about any certification and licensing requirements those professionals need as qualifications.

Read all the information there to incorporate what you learn about the profession with your interview into your report.





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#### Instructions:

After preparing your interview questions and collecting your answers, think about the importance of education and training in the life of that professional. Compose a report in which you **compare and contrast** the information you learned from your interview with the research you did on the profession (from sources like the Occupational Outlook Handbook) on the role of the person you interviewed in that profession. Support your analysis in your report with data and examples from both your research and your interviewee's answers.

Below is a rough outline of just one way that you could organize this report and reading and writing in a profession in which you are interested. For example, what follows is the most common outline.

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

Identify and explain the profession you wish to explore, and conclude with a paragraph containing a thesis you will prove in the body of the report regarding the kinds of education and training to prepare for and to do that profession. [You will likely need to include references to your basic resources here, such as Occupational Outlook Handbook and the library's Research Guides and Job Career & College Information.]

#### **Section 2: Prepare for the Profession**

Here there are two parts: the research and details about the competencies required to prepare for the profession.

[Here you should do two things: (1) use your favorite search engine to find degree programs here or elsewhere for this career and (2) find syllabi online for courses in that program. The syllabi will help you understand the course objectives and the performance-based objectives required to prepare for this career.]

#### **Section 3: Reading and Writing that one Does in this Profession**

Here there are two more parts: the research and details about the requirements to do and keep the job for this profession.

1. What kinds of additional certification and courses are needed to maintain/upgrade?

[For example, are there recertification requirements? for HVAC? for engineering? for design? etc. Are there continuing education requirements one needs for advancement in this profession? If so (and likely so), you need to check the websites of professional organizations for your profession and check the databases that collect the professional literature of your occupation.]

2. What other types of projects may be required?

[Here you should do two things: (1) use your favorite search engine to find continuing education programs for this career and (2) find syllabi online for courses in that program. The materials you discovered in the library's career sites (on the assignment page) can help you here too.]





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#### Section 4: References

[Here you should use the APA format to cite in-text and on the Bibliography page all the references you used in the report. Remember, you don't just need to document direct quotes, you need to document summarized and paraphrased materials, as well.]

That's just a basic outline. You can do much more creative things with this report; however, you need to cover all of those basics, including the citations, of course. Let me know if you need more help.

#### Assignment Rubric:

##### Rubric for Interviewing a Professor

1. The minimum length of the text is 750 words. There is no maximum length.
2. Include the list of questions you prepared for the interview.
3. Include your interview notes or recording.
4. Include bibliographic citations when needed.

Please have 2 classmates review your paper following the above rubric; in addition, have them check for errors in format, structure, and grammar.





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