

## MAJOR & CAREER ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

For this assignment, you are to write an essay based on the career field and major/s you are interested in pursuing.

1. You will need to provide a description of your ideal job. This description needs to be more detailed than "a businessman." State the title of the occupation; what type of company you might work for; what types of things you would be responsible for; and any other details important to you.
2. Conduct an informational interview with someone in the occupation you selected, or with an academic advisor in one of the majors you are considering, and incorporate the information gained from the interview into your essay. Use your personal and CSUN resources to find someone to interview (i.e., ask classmates, friends, family members, work peers, etc.). A sample informational interview sheet is available. You should prepare at least 5 questions for your interview, but you may ask additional questions as well if you'd like. You should ask any questions that are important to you – majors to study for the field, time with family, salary range, independence, etc. Ask for that person's business card or contact information and be sure to follow up with a thank you note or card to whomever you interview. (Be sure to dress appropriately and be on time for your appointment.)
3. Consider how the interests, values, skills, personality traits, and strengths that you possess will fit this job. USE YOUR MBTI, STRENGTHSQUEST and PATHWAYS ASSESSMENTS TO HELP.
4. Provide a description of at least 2 CSUN majors that would either help you get this job or that would be necessary for this job. Again, be specific; don't state that you need to major in business administration. Explain what you will learn by completing this major (and/or why you will need to learn this information).
5. Also, consider whether you will need graduate study and/or additional training. If so, explain what type and how you can increase your chances of being accepted to graduate school.
6. You will need to provide a description (not a list) of at least three general education courses you can take that are related to your field. Explain how these courses are related to your field.
7. You will need to provide a description of at least one activity (such as volunteer work, survival job, internship, etc.) not related to school coursework that could help you to get your ideal job.
8. You might want to include in your introduction your families' career choices or circumstances that influenced you in your choice of career fields.
9. Your conclusion should sum up what you have learned from your job and major research and what you plan to do with this information. For instance, you might find that you are now even more interested in your career field and major; you might discover that you want to change your mind about your major or career; or you might discover that you need to complete more research.

***This essay must:***

- . be typed, double-spaced, with 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and 1-inch margins.
- . contain an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.
- . be 4-5 pages in length
- . resources cited in MLA format

***Hints for success:***

For job and major descriptions, consider checking out:

- . *Pathways* at [www.csun.edu/pathways](http://www.csun.edu/pathways)
- . SUNlink for job descriptions and names of companies [www.csun.edu/career](http://www.csun.edu/career)
- . The Occupational Outlook Handbook put out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>
- . The Major Monographs at <http://www.csun.edu/career/students/explore.htm> (on the Career Center website)
- . CSUN's Catalog
- . Oviatt Library
- . Also, see additional resources on the Computer Resources handout given in class.