



PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR CAREER PUZZLE

Your *Strong* results have given you a lot of information about yourself and your interests. Now it is time to complete the steps below and gather more pieces of the career exploration puzzle. Completing the puzzle will help you find a career that interests you and fits your personal characteristics.

STEP 1: LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF

Researching possible careers begins with knowing who you are. To gain more awareness of who you are—your likes, talents, personality, and values—complete at least two of the activities listed at right. Then you will be ready to begin identifying possible career choices.

ACTIVITIES

- Identify your favorite school subjects.
- List activities you enjoy doing in your spare time.
- List your personality characteristics.
- List five things that make you feel good about yourself.
- Write down your idea of a great lifestyle or job.

STEP 2: IDENTIFY CAREER POSSIBILITIES

List two or three occupations you'd like to explore. Looking at your Occupational Scales results on your Profile may help you select several more occupations to list. You may also want to add several of the jobs you highlighted on the Beyond High School page.

CAREER OPTIONS

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

STEP 3: GATHER CAREER INFORMATION

Now you are ready to gather information about the career possibilities you have listed. Complete at least two of the activities listed at right. You may want to review the phrases you highlighted under the Personal Style Scales on your Profile to see how well the careers you are exploring suit your preferred styles.

ACTIVITIES

- Visit career web sites, the library, or school career center.
- Talk to people working in a particular field, including family and friends.
- Spend a day "job shadowing"—observing someone doing a job that interests you.
- Attend a career fair.

STEP 4: FOCUS ON CAREER SPECIFICS

Now you are ready to get some specific information about your career possibilities. Finding answers to the questions listed at right can help you. As you gather this information, think about how the careers fit the broad interests and personal characteristics you highlighted on your Profile.

CAREER QUESTIONS

- What training would prepare me for this field?
- What are the work hours? Working conditions?
- What is the employment outlook?
- What are the typical salary ranges?
- What skills and personal qualities are required?

STEP 5: GATHER EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Different careers require different types of education. Your next task is to find out what level of education is required for the careers you have listed. Complete some of the activities listed at right. Then review the words and phrases you highlighted on your Profile to see if your educational interests and personal style fit with the educational requirements of the careers you are exploring.

ACTIVITIES

- Attend a college fair.
- Investigate an apprenticeship program for a skilled trade.
- Explore getting an education through the military.
- Contact a college admissions counselor.
- Arrange a campus/school visit.
- Talk to graduates of the schools you are considering.
- Find out what tests you need for admission.

STEP 6: FIT THE PUZZLE PIECES TOGETHER

Now you are ready to assemble your puzzle. Make a chart like the one at right. You may find that your career puzzle takes some time to finish. Also, as you learn more about yourself and about the world of work, don't be surprised if some of the pieces change.

	Possible Career	Benefits of Career	Drawbacks of Career	Interests Fulfilled by Career	Personal Characteristics Expressed by Career	Education Required for Career
1.						
2.						
3.						

