

## Career Exploration Essay Assignment

By the end of this assignment, students should have the ability to

- Identify a career pathway they are interested in pursuing.
- Understand the educational pathway and their corresponding occupations and wage potential.
- Understand how to utilize tools to learn more about specific industry jobs in our 7 - county region as well as where to search for them.

**Student Directions:** Go to [EarnUp.org](http://EarnUp.org) and look under Career Pathways. There, you'll find a library of reports on our region's targeted and support industries. After reviewing all of the pathways, select a Career Pathway you find interesting. Then, write an essay addressing the following prompt:

**Essay Prompt:** After researching the Career Pathways, which career choice are you most likely to commit to at this point? Which career seems most compatible with who you are and what you want out of life? Be *very specific* in your essay, and discuss your interests, personality, values, goals, desired salary, etc. Pretend you are using this essay to convince someone you know that this is the right career for YOU. In addition to EarnUp.org, [FindyourJAX.com](http://FindyourJAX.com) might be another helpful resource for you as you develop your essay.

This essay should be at least 1 page double-spaced using a 12-point font (or, about 250-300 words).

*Career Exploration Essay Rubric:*

Criteria	Ratings			
	Exemplary	Meets Expectations	Developing	Beginning
<b>Quality of Content</b>	Fully addresses all aspects of the assignment. Gives specific answers to all of the Essay prompts.	Answers address most aspects of the assignment. Answers contain specific information.	Answers address some aspects of the assignment. Answers contain some specific information.	Content is missing and/or text is copied directly from source.
<b>Mechanics</b>	Execution is excellent. No grammar or writing errors.	Well executed. Few grammar or writing errors.	Execution is poor. Many grammar or writing errors.	No assignment submitted or submitted late.