

ACTIVITY 16: Job, Occupation, or Career?

FOR THE TEACHER:

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students:

- define and distinguish between jobs and occupations
- recognize agricultural job possibilities within broader occupational categories
- understand how career paths vary with an individual's choices and experiences

Setting the Stage

Explain to students that they're going to explore the differences between job, occupation, and career in this activity. Ask if they know what each term means and if they can give examples. Tell them that they're going to project into the future and imagine that they are at the end of their careers and write a speech that details all the jobs they held and the steps they took to progress in their chosen occupations.

After students have written their retirement speeches, ask for volunteers to deliver their speeches. After each speech, you can diagram the speaker's career path and discuss the skills, education requirements, challenges, and rewards presented during the speech. You can also alter the activity so each student writes a retirement speech for the same occupation, which will highlight the different ways in which people can enter an occupation and the way in which everyone's career is shaped by their personal experiences and choices.

Starting the Program

Go to www.careercruising.com. Enter your username and password in the spaces provided, and click on Log In.



WORKSHEET: Job, Occupation, or Career?

Job, occupation, and career are often used interchangeably to describe the work a person performs; however, they actually mean different things:

A **job** refers to the specific position in which a person is employed. (e.g. Chief of Surgery, framing carpenter at We-Build It construction company, lab assistant at DrugCo Pharmaceuticals)

An **occupation** is a wide category of jobs that have similar characteristics, such as types of skills or work responsibilities. A person can work at his or her occupation for different employers. (e.g. doctor, carpenter, biotechnologist)

A **career** is the body of work—all jobs and occupations—and life experiences that a person experiences during his or her lifetime.

PART A: Put a “J” beside the examples below that describe a job. Put an “O” beside the examples that describe an occupation.

teacher _____

apprentice plumber _____

retail buyer for a toy store _____

farmer _____

salesperson _____

8th grade teacher at Drumbo School _____

electrician _____

avionics technician at UpAndAway Airlines _____

engineer _____

mechanic for a tractor dealership _____

PART B: Sign into Career Cruising, and click on the Careers button in the menu at the top of the page. Search for an occupation that interests you, either by subject or career cluster.

Occupation: _____

1. Read the Job Description.

What duties do people in this occupation typically perform?

What skills do they require?



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2. Read the sample Agriculture Job Titles.

What are some agricultural jobs that people in this occupation can hold? (e.g. *plant geneticist or crop breeder for botanist*)

What other agricultural job titles can you think of for people in this occupation?

3. Read the Sample Career Path. (The Sample Career Path shows how titles, responsibilities, requirements, and earnings can change as individuals advance in their career.)

What job title can someone starting their career in this occupation hold? (e.g. *apprentice, laborer, entry-level position*)

What job title can someone who has reached the top of their career in this occupation hold? (e.g. *manager, senior, owner/operator*)

Briefly describe how someone in this occupation moves from an entry-level job to a senior-level job. (What mid-level jobs would someone hold? What sort of education is required? How much experience do they need?)

PART C: Imagine it is 50 years in the future and you are about to retire from a career in the occupation you've just researched. Write a brief retirement speech that outlines the jobs you had as you advanced in your career, the challenges and rewards you faced during your career, and the reasons you chose to pursue this occupation. Be creative, but it's also important to be realistic. People rarely "fall into" an occupation; they have to prepare and work hard to get to where they want to be.



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If you're having difficulty, use some of the following questions to help you find the information you need for your retirement speech:

- i. Looking at the Job Description, the Education section, the Sample Career Path, and the Agriculture Job Titles, what was the job title you held when you realized you needed to get more education to advance in your career? What extra training did you get, and what effect did that have on your career?
- ii. Looking at the Education section, was gaining entry to this career difficult? What was the hardest obstacle to overcome (*e.g. earning a bachelor's degree, gaining experience in the field, finding someone to train you as an apprentice*)
- iii. Looking back at the different job titles you've had, which position did you find the most rewarding and why?
- iv. Looking back at the different positions that you've had, did you find mentors in your early positions and if so, what job titles did they have? Were you able to mentor others in later positions?
- v. What goals did you set for yourself early in your career? For example, did you aspire to a certain job title, such as CEO or manager? What steps did you take to reach these goals?
- vi. Using the Job Description and the Working Conditions, now that you are retiring, what parts of your work will you miss, and what parts won't you miss. (*e.g. you might miss meeting with colleagues, but you might not miss working evening and weekends or the stress of strict deadlines*)
- vii. As someone who has moved through the many different job titles and levels of responsibility within your career, what advice would you have for someone just entering the career? (Use the Job Description, Education, Sample Career Path, and Agriculture Job Titles.)

Retirement Speech Notes:

Entry-level job title: _____

Place of employment at the beginning of your career: _____

Job titles you've held: _____

Job title at retirement: _____

Place of employment at retirement: _____



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Write your retirement speech in the space provided:

