MIDDLE SCHOOL
CLASSROOM READY CURRICULUM
POWERPOINT CAREER RESEARCH PROJECT*

AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION’S DOMAIN:

Career Development

**Standard B:** Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.

**Competency 1. Acquire Career Information**

**Indicator e.** Use research and information resources to obtain career information

**Indicator f.** Learn to use the Internet to access career-planning information

**ACTIVITY: DEVELOPING A POWERPOINT RESEARCH PROJECT.**

**TARGET GROUP:** Middle School (end of 8th grade)

**GOAL:** Students will research a selected career using the internet and create a PowerPoint presentation to share with the class.

**SUMMARY:**

**MATERIALS:**

- Instructor Notes
- Computers with Internet access and PowerPoint software
- Computer with the ability to project onto a large screen for the instructor and for use by students when making presentations
- Projector
- PowerPoint presentation entitled: *Which Way Do I Go?*
- Handout: California CareerZone Interest Assessment
- Handout: Storyboard Outline (each student will need several copies)
- Handout: PowerPoint Presentation

**STRATEGIES:**

- Introduction to the subject (see Instructor Notes, Section I).
- Begin the learning activity by showing the sample student PowerPoint project, *Which Way Do I Go?*
- Students may need an introduction on how to use the presentation software; collaboration with the computer teacher on campus might be helpful. Check out CSU’s Professor Moscovici’s Introduction to PowerPoint at [http://www3.csudh.edu/student-affairs/tlc/docs/pp101.pdf](http://www3.csudh.edu/student-affairs/tlc/docs/pp101.pdf).
• Students need to have a career in mind to research. If the students have a California Career Center (www.cacareercenter.org) “My Stuff” account, they can refer to their *Putting It All Together* worksheet for their top three career interests and choose one. If the students do not have an account, and do not have a career in mind, refer them to California CareerZone website (www.cacareerzone.org). Distribute the *California CareerZone Interest Assessment* handout to walk them through how to find a career that interests them.

• When all students have a career in mind, allow them time to navigate occupational sites such as those found on the California Career Center website:
  
  - On the homepage click on “Career Options” in the left navigation bar
  - Scroll down to “Career Option Web Links”
  - Explore the various websites especially the California CareerZone and the Occupational Outlook Handbook for information

• Encourage students to research their career on at least three sites by conducting a web search on their own. The "Exploring Jobs That Interest You" page on the California Career Center is a good place to start.

• Schedule at least one class period for the research as you want the students to gather the following:
  
  - Description of career
  - Salary range of the career
  - Types of employment
  - Educational requirements
  - Schools offering training
  - Special qualities and abilities

• Pass out the *Storyboard Outline* handout. Remind the students to state facts in a concise, outline form. Each student will need three or four copies of the *Storyboard Outline*.

• When Storyboard slides have been completed, instruct students to create 9-12 slides using the PowerPoint software:
  
  - Slide 1: Title
  - Slide 2-7: Career information
  - Slide 8: Students will briefly state their reaction to the information gained
  - Slide 9: Cite where the information came from

• Schedule at least one class period for the students to create their PowerPoint presentations.

• Have students preview their slideshow adding narration.

• Should you desire to grade these presentations, a rubric is included.

• When all PowerPoint presentations are complete, administer the one-question survey.

• Closing Statements (see Instructor Notes, Section II).
**ESTIMATED TIME:** 4 class periods

**EVALUATION TOOL:**

I feel the information I gained doing the PowerPoint Career Research Project to be (1) Very Helpful; (2) Helpful; (3) Somewhat Helpful as I think about my future plans.

* Adapted from Alabama State University, Alabama Learning Exchange.*
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CALIFORNIA CAREERZONE INTEREST ASSESSMENT
HANDOUT

2. Scroll to top of page and click on “Explore.”
3. Scroll down to and click on “Quick Assessment.”
4. Follow the directions which will lead to three general interest areas.
5. Click on “View Results.”
6. Scroll through the careers listed and find one that you would like to use for your career research project.
7. Click on that career and research information will be available to you.
Slide 1

*Career Research Project*

Slide 2

*Which Way Do I Go?*

Decisions, Decisions!

Slide 3

*Which path do I follow?*

What do I want to be?
What are my interests?
What are my goals?
Do I like school?
Slide 4

My interests?

- I love animals!
- I am on the honor roll!
- I want to go to college!

Slide 5

I want to be a Veterinarian!

Slide 6

- Take care of small animals.
- Take care of large animals.
- Treat animal diseases.
- Vaccinate to prevent diseases.
- Repair injuries.
- Perform surgery.

Veterinarians...
Slide 7

*What is the path?

- Graduate from high school.
- Graduate from college.
- Graduate from veterinary school.
- Obtain a license to practice.

Slide 8

*What schools are on the path?

- University of California
- University of Tennessee
- University of Georgia

Slide 9

*Is it a smooth, straight path?

The path to becoming a veterinarian is going to be bumpy and crooked. The competition for entrance to veterinary school is keen, but I plan to start on my journey in high school.
I. Introduction to the subject:

This research project will start you thinking specifics in a career. You will be using the Internet to do an in-depth study on a career that you are interested in. You will be looking at the job description, the activities that relate to that job, the education required and the salary paid for doing the work. Once you have gathered this information, you will put it into a PowerPoint presentation to be shown to your classmates.

II. Closing statements:

This career research project is one of the most important projects you have done this year. The information you gained can be used to make course and activity selections when update your Course Planning Worksheet. You are planning your future now.

III. Collecting Results Data:

**Process Data:** Number of students who completed the PowerPoint research project.

**Perception Data - Survey**

I feel the information I gained doing the PowerPoint Career Research Project to be (1) Very Helpful; (2) Helpful; or (3) Somewhat Helpful as I think about my future plans (short-term data).
MIDDLE SCHOOL
RUBRIC FOR EVALUATING THE POWERPOINT
CAREER RESEARCH PRESENTATION*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION OF SLIDES</th>
<th>TOTAL VALUE</th>
<th>SELF EVALUATION</th>
<th>TEACHER EVALUATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening slide with title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum of 9 slides; max. of 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety of PowerPoint features (transitions, sound, graphics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Works cited slide</td>
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<tr>
<th>CONTENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of career</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifications</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Examples of schools that offer education for the selected career</td>
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<tr>
<td>One slide stating personal interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student’s reflection</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text is well written and ideas are presented in an organized manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slides are logically presented</td>
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<td>Presentation is visually attractive</td>
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<tr>
<td>PowerPoint printed in notes format with 3 slides per page</td>
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| TOTAL POINTS | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Final Grade: | | | 100 |

Reviewed by:_________________________

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