

How to Present the Future Now! Student Career Choice

The first - and arguable the most important step in choosing a career is to study. But this time what you need to study isn't math or social studies (we'll get to those later). What you need to study is yourself.

That's because the career you choose must suit your personality - your likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses. Otherwise, you're almost certain to be unhappy. So how do you find a career you can enjoy? Start by taking a good look at yourself.

On a separate piece of paper:

1. First, list your top five career choices, in order. Next to each one, write down what about it appeals to you.
2. Next, list your three BEST subjects in school.
3. List your three FAVORITE subjects. For most people, this list and the one above will be either identical or very close. Because people tend to enjoy the things they're good at and be good at the things they enjoy. That's why you're more likely to be successful in a career you like than in one you only tolerate.
4. Next list your 10 favorite activities. Anything counts, whether it's playing football, talking on the phone, or listening to music.
5. Now, list 10 things you've never done but would like to do. Want to fly a plane or sail solo around the world? Want to write a best-selling novel or record a No. 1 country single? Write them down, whatever they are.
6. Look at yourself through your best friend's eyes and choose five adjectives he or she might use to describe your personality. Are you shy or outgoing? Athletic or bookish? (There's no rule that says you can't be athletic and bookish.)

Compare the list of career choices you made at the top of this page with the answers that followed. Are they consistent? Do they, especially your top choice, fit in with the "perfect life" you imagined for yourself?

Make another list of career choices based on your answers on these two pages (It is okay to keep the same list if your answers are consistent.)