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Career/Interview Project

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Abstract for LMF 101 Liberal Arts Math and Science Oral Assignment:

Two of the core competencies designated for The First Year Seminar Liberal Arts Math and Science (LMF 101) course are Integrative Learning and Global Learning along with oral communication. These abilities are exercised by students in the Career/Interview Presentation project. The main goal of the assignment is to promote student networking within the scientific community through interviews with an expert in the field. Also the FYS students will conduct background research about their career choices and use their findings to determine if they can be realized when interviewing a professional. The assignment is scaffolded whereby students will learn to use on-line resources to search for information about the profession and use on-line tools to material in preparation for the interview. Students will learn how to write professional emails, network and create PowerPoint slides. After the class presentation, students are asked to write a reflection in their ePortfolio on their career choice and interview experiences. The time dedicated for this project is on the order of weeks and counts for 20% (15% oral presentation and 5 % reflection) of the final grade.

LMF 101 –Oral Assignment: Career/Interview Project

The notion of solely obtaining a higher education degree in order to establish a fruitful career has slowly dissipated. In addition to graduating, networking with professionals in the scientific community has become an indispensable tool in a students' arsenal when entering the job market. For this scaffolded assignment, you will begin your foray into the world of internships by interviewing a professional in your selected field of interest. Prior to the interview, you will research job outlook, annual salary, locating reputable education programs, and identifying elements needed to excel in the field by completing the 'Graduation Plan'

Goals: The intended outcomes of the interview project are twofold:

- a) *Aligning personal skills and interests to a career goal*
- b) *Early personal networking to enable practical input from a professional in the scientific/health sciences community*

This assignment will promote integrative learning, global learning and oral communication skills.

Task: You will decide a major/career to pursue and present to the class (via PowerPoint presentation for 7 minutes + 3 minutes of Q & A) the following:

1. Give a brief history of what your career choice entails and why you selected it
2. Job prospects, job outlook in 10 years and specifically where could you work
3. The salary range and benefits to the job
4. The pros and cons of the career
5. How will you get there (what reputable program will you apply to, job training and volunteer opportunities you will pursue)

6. Having decided a major/career, you are assigned to go out and interview a professional in your field of interest. You will make an initial contact and find an individual who you think will give you a good idea about your career choice. You will prepare questions for the prospective individual, ask the questions and afterwards report on the interview and send a thank you email (and cc your instructor).

During the semester as a class, we will work on developing a set of questions to prompt your interview discussion, create an email template to introduce yourself to the professional, learn how to create PowerPoint slides and practice networking skills.

Some questions that you could ask the interviewer:

What kind of education do you need?

What are some of the pros and cons of your profession? What were some of the challenges on your journey?

Describe a day in the life of a _____?

What characteristics do you need to succeed?

If you were not _____, what would you be?

What is your definition of success?

Do you have any advice for me?

Grading:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Outlining your goals and the plan to achieve them | 30 % |
| The interview | 50 % |
| Structure and clarity of presentation | 10 % |
| ePortfolio Reflection | <u>10 %</u> |
| | 100% |

Both your peers and your instructor will evaluate your presentation. Your instructor will grade your ePortfolio entry- Reflecting on your interview

Presentations will occur during the last week of classes (December 1 and 5)