

Sample Formal Writing Assignments for English 200—Vocation (Wilhoit)

Wilhoit

English 200—Vocation

Paper #3—Vocation and Occupation

Length: 6-8 pages + works cited page

Rough Draft Due: October 28

Final Draft Due: November 1

Introduction

In the first unit of the course, you defined “vocation,” examining how it is similar to or different from “calling” or “career.” In the second unit of the course, you developed a position on how much your choice of vocation is actually under your control and how much is part of some larger design beyond your knowing. In this unit, you will combine the skills and insights you developed in the earlier units: you will identify how you can best match your vocational skills, interests, desires, and values to a career or profession.

Assignment

Identify and thoroughly research a career or profession that best matches your skills, interests, desires, and values. In your essay, explain the career or profession in detail and argue convincingly that it is a good match for you.

You will need to identify what types of work the career requires, the skills necessary to perform it, typical salaries people make, how future prospects for employment look, and other information you think is relevant, and demonstrate convincingly that it matches your personal attributes, interests, and values.

Use academic sources for your paper. You may also want to interview someone who works in that profession or someone in career services.

Audience

College-educated readers

Documentation

Employ MLA guidelines documenting your essay and supply a properly formatted works cited list. **Also turn in a copy of any material you cite in the body of your essay (for example, if you cite page 301 of a book, turn in photocopy of that page with your essay).**

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English 200—Vocation

Paper #4—Vocation and Service to Others
Length: 5-6 pages + works cited page

- Paper Topic Due: November 8
- Draft Thesis Due: November 13
- Preliminary Bibliography Due: November 18
- Draft Outline Due: November 20
- Rough Draft Due: December 2
- Final Draft Due: December 4

Introduction

In the last paper you wrote, you investigated a career that you think best matches your talents, gifts, values, and life goals. For this final paper in the course, I'd like you to consider how you can use those same talents, gifts, and values in the service of others. Clearly, whatever career you wrote about in your previous paper will involve some sort of service, but in this assignment, I want you investigate non-career oriented service opportunities, ones you might pursue voluntarily on your own.

Assignment

Identify and thoroughly research one service organization. It can be local or national—a campus service club, a local pet shelter, or a national organization (Peace Corps, VISTA, Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity)—private, public, or religious. The one requirement is that you can research the organization.

In the first part of your paper, offer a thorough overview of the service organization you chose to research. Consider answering questions like these:

- What precisely does the service organization do?
- Who does it help?
- What are its goals?
- How does it accomplish these goals?
- What types of activities do members engage in?
- What types of volunteers does the organization need?
- What is the organization's history?
- What types of people work for the organization?
- Where is the organization located and where does it do its work?

In the second part of your paper, explain

- (a) how you might contribute to this organization if you joined it (or how you are already contributing to it if you are already a member) and

- (b) why or how working for the organization would positively influence your life and the lives of others.

Reference at least 5 (five) academic sources in your paper. Academic sources can include interviews.

Audience

College-educated readers

Documentation

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