

Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Luckily, there are lots of different types to pick from. But, you probably have some questions. For example, how do you learn what kinds of jobs there are and how do you figure out which careers might be a good match for you? Here are some ideas to set you on the right path!

### The Basics

You might already have some ideas about a career. If not, ask yourself some basic questions about your likes and dislikes. Here are some examples to get you started:

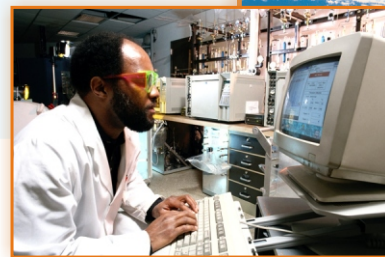
1. Do you like to work with your hands?
2. Do you prefer working indoors or outdoors?
3. What are your favourite subjects in school?
4. Do you want to go to a university or do you want to start working right after secondary school/college?

There are lots of resources on the Internet that can give you some more ideas about choosing a career. Ask your teacher or check out one of these websites:

<http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/quiz/default.asp?careers=6>

<http://www.kidzworld.com> (click on the link for quizzes)

<http://www.myfuture.com/> (click on the link for 'work interest' quiz)



### Let's Get Personal



Okay, now it's time to gather some more information. Choose one of the careers that interest you.

1. Ask your parents, teachers or other adults if they know anyone who works in this profession<sup>1</sup>.
2. Contact this person and ask if they would be willing to let you interview them about their job. People enjoy talking about themselves, so don't be shy!
3. At the interview use the list of questions (attached) and add any others that you would like to ask. Write a brief summary after the interview saying what you think about this career.
4. The next day, send them a thank-you note or email. It's polite and they will be happy you took the time to do it. You never know...you might end up working for this person some day!

<sup>1</sup> type of work that requires special training or skill

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of person being interviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of company / business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a typical day like at your job?
2. What did you do to prepare for this career? What helped you the most?
3. What are the most important skills you need to do your job?
4. How did you learn these skills?
5. What kind of education did you need for this career?
6. What kind of courses should I take in secondary school to prepare me for this job?  
Will I need special education after secondary school for this career? What kind?
7. What do you like the most about this career?
8. What's the hardest part of your job?
9. What changes do you think the future will hold for this kind of career?
10. What kind of salary can I expect?
11. If you had a chance to do things over again, what would you change?
12. What motivates you (gets you excited) about your career?
13. What kind of personality do you need for a career like this?
14. Are there any other questions you think I should ask to better understand this career?
15. Is there any other advice you'd like to give me?

### Summary Report

Adapted from: [www.sccis.org/main/portfolio/beentheredt.htm](http://www.sccis.org/main/portfolio/beentheredt.htm)