



JA Career Speakers Series

After watching the *JA Career Speakers* volunteer video, reflect on the information, and then complete the following activities.

Think About It

- What about the speaker's occupation intrigued you?
- What, if anything, did the speaker tell about his or her job that you could see yourself doing?
- What parts of the job would you not be willing or able to do?
- Had you ever heard of this company or occupation? What did you know about it before watching the video?

Try It: Research

Research the company or organization. Make notes in a separate document. You will need them for your writing assignment. Cite your sources.

- Start with the company website. Most company websites have an “about” section that provides an overview of the company.
 - Investigate the company's products or services.
 - Discover other occupations at the company and make a list of the types of jobs people do there. You can explore the “about us” or the “careers” section of the company's website.
- Research the speaker's occupation on the O*Net My Next Move website at <https://www.mynextmove.org/>.
 - Type the speaker's job title in the search field under “I want to be a...” Select the result that most closely matches the speaker's job.
 - Read through the job information, taking notes about the skills, knowledge, and abilities that interest you or match your own. You might also want to note the education required, wages and job outlook, and any other interesting facts or features.
- Visit the U.S. Department of Labor site, O*NET, at <https://www.onetonline.org/>.
 - In the top navigation bar, locate the “Find Occupations” drop-down menu, select Career Cluster, and use the arrow button to find the career cluster most closely associated with the speaker's career. Select “Go” to investigate and identify the career most closely related to the speaker's job.
 - Find two other careers within that cluster that might interest you, again taking notes about the details.



- If you are unsure about careers that interest you, you might wish to do a search. Go to the O*Net interest profiler at <https://www.mynextmove.org/>. Under “I’m not really sure,” select “Start” to find other occupations that are suited to your skills and interests.

Try It: Explore and Explain

Using the information you gained from your research, choose one of the following four activities. Your teacher may assign a specific activity to you. You may be required to submit your work. Follow your teacher’s guidelines.

Informational Interview

- Conduct an informational interview with an adult you know who works in a field similar to the speaker’s.
 - Create 10 interview questions that you would ask someone in that career field. Include questions about work environment (including teamwork and the communication skills necessary), job satisfaction, problem-solving skills, educational requirements, decision-making skills required, and any other details that interest you.
 - Create a paragraph or chart summarizing the information gained in the interview, or write the interview out as a dialogue.
- Write a paragraph explaining why or why not you feel you would be a good fit for this career field. Use specific and concrete examples of your skills and interests and relate them to those required for the position.

Job Advertisement

- Write a job advertisement for an occupation in the company you researched.
 - Detail job description, pay, hours, amount of education or experience necessary, soft (transferable) work skills necessary for the job, specific employee benefits offered by the company and any other information that would appeal to a potential employee. For examples or job listings you may want to search an online job search site such as wwwIndeed.com.
 - Write a cover letter explaining why you feel you would be a good fit for this job. Use specific and concrete examples of your skills and experiences that make you the right choice for this position. You may wish to research the elements of a strong cover letter.

Compare and Contrast

- Create a Venn diagram or other one-to-one comparison graphic organizer using two of the occupations you researched.
 - Examine the job outlook, education, technology, and other key features. Search “graphic organizers compare and contrast” for ideas if necessary.
- Write a three-paragraph compare and contrast essay describing the similarities and differences between the two jobs.



- You may use a block structure or point-by-point structure to organize your writing.
- In your final paragraph, state which job you believe is more suited to your skills and experiences. Explain your reasons using concrete evidence from your own life and specific examples about the jobs you researched.

Personal Narrative

- Imagine yourself in the speaker's occupation or similar career. Consider the following questions as you begin to draft your thoughts. Include information gained from your research and the speaker's talk.
 - What would your day look like?
 - What tasks would you perform?
 - What kind of communication would you encounter?
 - With whom would you work?
 - What does your working environment look like?
- Write a "Day in the Life of..." personal narrative of at least a page about your imagined job.
 - Engage the reader by setting up the situation or introducing the narrator or characters.
 - Use dialogue, description, or reflection to develop the experience.
 - Employ a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create the whole story.
 - Use precise words and phrases and sensory language to convey a vivid work picture of the experience.
 - Conclude your narrative with a strong takeaway message that leaves your reader understanding how you feel about your imagined job.