

▶ Activity 5:

Have students write a personal essay about their career goals using the writing prompt on page 22. Optional: Have students read their personal essays out loud to the class!



Writing Activity — What's Your Top Career Choice?

Topic: Understanding, developing, and using the higher-order skills needed to pursue your dream career

▶ **PHASE I:
Determine your career options and identify the skills required for that career.**

Write your responses in complete sentences, providing details and examples.

1. Jot down a few of your top interests and passions. Choose the one that most appeals to you. How might pursuing this interest make a positive impact on society? What is your biggest aspiration regarding this particular interest? (Dare to dream big!)
2. Identify a career that closely aligns with your future aspirations, as described above, and explain why it's a good fit.
3. Consult the **Career Skills Guide** and select the five skills you believe are most crucial for your chosen career. Explain the importance of each skill in relation to your career choice. Then, conduct research on this career by looking up job listings, professional bios of people who hold similar positions, news stories about advances made in this field, and so on. Cite evidence from valid sources that support how your chosen skills align with your desired career.
4. Compose a paragraph for each of the five skills mentioned above, using specific examples to demonstrate how you already possess and utilize these skills in your everyday life. Support your response with specific examples. Additionally, identify the skills that you feel you need to further develop.

Example:

Skill: Written Communication
I continually develop my written communication skills through writing essays for school; writing emails; composing "thank you" letters for gifts received; sending creative and comprehensible texts to my friends.

5. Outline your plans for enhancing these top five skills in the upcoming year. Explain how you intend to improve these skills both in school and in your personal life. Write a few paragraphs detailing your strategies and specific actions you will take.
6. Share why you believe you would excel in your chosen career path. Identify the potential obstacles or challenges you anticipate encountering along the way. Provide thoughtful insights into how you plan to overcome these hurdles to achieve your goals.

▶ **PHASE II:
Crafting your personal essay: Weave your career aspirations, skills, and challenges into a captivating narrative.**

Using the responses to the previous questions, compose an essay about the career you're interested in pursuing. Give your essay an intriguing and captivating title. Share your career aspirations, what skills will be necessary to do well in that career, what challenges you anticipate and how you'll overcome them, and why you think this career is a good choice for you.

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