

## **English 101 Essay 2: A Snapshot: Looking at Your Potential Major and Career**

So far this semester you have reflected on the potential career(s) you are interested in. Now we will turn our attention to discussing the major disciplines of humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences that liberal arts courses make up, then building on that knowledge to take a look at your possible major and career more specifically. It is important when thinking about a major to understand what job options that field of study can lead to and understand what courses are required. When thinking about a career it is useful to learn what types of positions exist, what skills are needed, and what those job positions are like on a daily basis. This project gives you the chance to explore all of that.

**Part 1:** For the first part of this essay you will research, utilizing the Bridgewater State University course catalog, about your major or potential major that you are interested in. You will then compose a one page digital flyer that must detail what courses are required for the major and summarize what skills and knowledge are central to the major. Basically, your flyer will serve as a document that advertises the major and should look visually appealing as well as be informative. We will discuss visual rhetoric, document design, and using visuals to create this document. We will also take a look at the resources Career Services on campus has to offer to assist with this. This will also give you practice with visual writing and working with graphics, all important skills.

**Part 2:** For the second part of this essay you will turn your attention to potential career interest by researching and writing about it. If you have multiple interests choose one for this assignment. We will be learning about the library research process and how to access sources that can assist you in learning about your career choice including the types of positions, salary, job growth prospects, education needed, etc. which you will include in your essay.

In addition to researching your career you must find someone to interview who works within that career field or a related field. Your goal is to learn about what it is like to have the position, what education the person needed to obtain the position, and what advice he or she has for you. We will discuss how to interview and formulate proper interview questions in class. You will compose the information you learn from the interview into your essay. If you are having trouble locating someone to interview please let me know, and I will pair you with someone. These interviews can be conducted via email, phone, or zoom.

**Form:** This is an informative essay. It should include an introduction, thesis, body, and conclusion.

**Thesis:** Your thesis for this essay should explain what your major and career is and what skills are required for it. The body of the information you present in the essay, including the interview, will support this thesis.

**Audience:** Your audience for this essay is students who are interested in majoring in the same major you have selected. Your job is to explain the requirements, skills, and possible career opportunities to them.

**Brass Tacks**

- 3-4 pages (including part one), double-spaced, 12pt readable font
- Discusses and Researches your major
- Discusses and Researches one potential career option
- Includes an interview with a person working in the chosen career field.

### **How I will Evaluate Your Essay**

I am using something called "spec" grading to evaluate and assign a grade for your essay draft. The grade is the result of quantity--or just doing what I'm asking you to do--and to a lesser extent, quality. As explained in the syllabus, your work on your essay draft will determine 10% of your final grade for each one, 30% total.

#### **In order to earn a "B" grade for that 6.25%**

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompt.
- Write an essay that is at least three pages (including part one). It can be over. It can't be under.
- Use examples from secondary resources regarding your major at BSU and your career option
- Contains examples from an interview with someone in your career field of interest
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion
- Applies design principles effectively

#### **In order to earn an "A" grade for that 6.25%**

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompt in depth showcasing the skills learned in class.
- Write an essay that is between three to four pages (including part one). It can't be under.
- Use examples from secondary resources regarding your major at BSU and your career option including the BSU course catalog and appropriate sources introduced by the librarian
- Contains examples and direct quotes from an interview with someone in your career field of interest
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion
- Shows in depth understanding of design principles

#### **In order to earn a "C" grade for that 6.25%**

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompt but not fully.
- Write an essay that is less than three pages (including part one).
- Use minimal or no resources regarding your major at BSU and your career option
- Uses minimal or no material from an interview with someone in your chosen career field.
- Does not contain a complete thesis, intro, or conclusion.

- Does not show full awareness of design principles but attempts.

If you do not meet the requirements for a “C” paper, you will fail the paper for that 6.25% of your grade.