Here’s what you have to do…..Write a 2-3 page research-based essay in which you compare and contrast two career goals.

A. Pick Two Possible Careers/Jobs that interest you.
Are you thinking about becoming an electrician? Are you thinking about becoming a doctor or a physician’s assistant? Identify two careers/jobs that interest you.

B. Do Some Research.
We will spend four days in the library gathering information. You may, of course, look in the public library after school or on the internet at home. Your research must include 2 sources from the high school’s virtual reference collection. (If you choose to use sources from the “free web,” you must complete an evaluation sheet in which you justify why you used that “free web” source.)

**Required Sources:** Use at least the following Two Sources: O-Net and the Occupational Outlook Handbook (Both of these sources are located on the school’s Virtual Reference Collection.)

To access the VRC (from home), you need the following information:
- URL: [http://xaaa.calypso.scoolaid.net](http://xaaa.calypso.scoolaid.net)
- Username: isliphs
- Password: library

C. Take Notes.
We would like you to use Noodle Tools. We will teach you how to use this program when we are in the library. **NOTE:** Your notes on Noodle Tools will be graded!

D. Follow this Format.

- **Introductory Paragraph:** Talk about why you are interested in these careers/jobs.

- **Body of the Paper:** Since this is an informative piece, you may use subheadings (as outlined below).

  - **Education and Training**
    - Include information about the education, training, and licenses/certificates that are required for these jobs
  
  - **Job Responsibilities**
    - Include information about the general duties of these professions; include information about specializations within the field
  
  - **Salary and Job Prospects**
    - Include information about the salary you can expect, the overall job outlook for the profession, job prospects, and opportunities for advancement within the field
Work Environment/Work Schedule
  o Include information about where people do these jobs (Do workers in this field typically work in a hospital, for example, or a school?); include information about the typical schedule of these workers (Do workers in this field work the night shift, for example?)

• Closing Paragraph: Discuss what you have learned. Which career do you think you will most likely pursue—and why?

E. Write your Final Draft.
  • Cite all material taken from sources using proper MLA Citation.
  • Use an MLA Heading on your paper.
  • Your paper should be 2-3 typed pages, using 12-point font.

F. Create a Works Cited Page.
Check out “MLA Guidelines” at the end of this packet for details about the type of information needed to create this page.

Grading Information
1. Your paper will be graded based on the rubric provided.
2. Five points will be deducted—per day—for every day that the “final draft” is handed in after the due date.
3. Your Works Cited Page and your notes from NoodleTools will be graded separately. The Works Cited Page will count as a test grade; the Noodle Tools notes will count as a quiz grade.

Due Date: Thursday, October 23

MLA Documentation
After you gather your information, you will need to include some of these facts in your writing. Whenever you include such facts in a paper that you’re writing, you must cite those facts with an in-text citation. Otherwise, you’re guilty of plagiarism—which means you’ve stolen someone else’s ideas and have pretended that they were your original ideas.

Let’s imagine that you are doing research on becoming a dentist and you read, in an article, about the type of education needed to become a dentist. You would like to include this information in your paper. Here’s how to do it:

Example: Dentists generally must attend a 4-year college in which they receive a bachelor’s degree; afterward, they must attend dental school and then complete a residency program with an established dental practice (Smith 52).

What is an IN-TEXT citation?
After a word-for-word quotation, a paraphrase, or the use of another author's idea, you must note the name of the web page (or website)—or the author and the page number if it's a book or an article—in parentheses following the fact.
**Works Cited Information**

The Works Cited page should appear at the end of your paper. It should list—in alphabetical order, by the author’s last name, in a “hanging indent” format—the books, magazines, and websites that you used to compile your research. (Reminder: Use the “How to Cite” or “Citation” links available on the database.) This information is written in the format outlined in the example below:

Works Cited


**MLA Guidelines for the Works Cited Page**

Use the following samples as a guide.

**If your source is a Book…here’s how to write the entry:**

Author. *Title*. City of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium of Source.


**If your source is an Encyclopedia Entry…here’s how to write the entry:**

Author. “Title of Article.” *Title of Encyclopedia*. Date of Publication. Medium of Source.


**If your source is an article found Online from one of the library’s databases…here’s how to write the entry:**

Author. “Title of Article.” *Original Source of Article*

   Date of Publication: Page Number. *Name of Database*. Medium of Source.
   Date of Access.

Should I be a Physician’s Assistant or a Doctor?

Introductory Paragraph…..identify your two careers and talk about why you are interested in these careers…..

Education and Training
Include information about the requirements for both of your chosen careers.

Job Responsibilities
Include information about the duties of these professions

Salary and Job Prospects
Include information about the expected salaries, etc.

Work Environment/Work Schedule
Include information about the work environment and the work schedule

Closing Paragraph…Discuss what you have learned. Which career do you think you will most likely pursue—and why?