ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW:
CAREER and IDENTITY-based EXPOSITORY ESSAY

Discussion: An expository essay is an essay that means to ‘expose’ and ‘explore’ a topic. In this 4 page essay, double-spaced, your topic is your career aspiration(s), to be narrowed down into a thesis statement that explores what career you seem most suited for as well as why your knowledge, skills, or dreams are ‘keyed in’ towards that career. The expectation for this essay, structurally, is that you will have a background section, a descriptive section, and a narrative section. You MUST include at least one properly sourced and formatted quote and one properly sourced and formatted picture.

PURPOSE / AUDIENCE / STRUCTURE

Purpose: The purpose of this essay is to explain to the reader 1) what career you are interested in pursuing; 2) why you are suited to this career based on your knowledge, skills, or dreams.

Audience: The audience for this essay are your classmates and your instructor; therefore, you should use a college-level style of writing and vocabulary.

Structure: INTRO

HOOK

THESIS BRIDGE

THESIS

EXPOSITORY SECTION (BACKGROUND)

DESCRIPTIVE SECTION

NARRATIVE SECTION

CONCLUSION

Expository Section: Discuss the career pathway in general.
Expose the pros and cons of the career.
Express salary and implications of salary.
Cite materials from online resources about the career prospects.

Descriptive Section: Depict a ‘day in the life’ sequence in which you creatively or visually show yourself working in that career. This might be a ‘disaster’ or ‘dream’ scenario.
Integrate an interview from someone in the field already.
Integrate interview material from your counselor at K.C.C.
Integrate interview / visual material from inspirational figures.

Narrative Section: Tell us a story about how you became interested in the career path.
Tell us about relevant skills and passions that feed into this career.
Layer in specific tensions or drawbacks that dissuade from this career or passions and achievements that make this career essential.
Sample Scenario I: Derek

Derek wants to be a musician, but his overbearing parents want him to become a doctor. In his essay, even though Derek discusses the low salary of an entry level musician playing some gigs in Honolulu, Derek allows us to ‘hear’ and ‘see’ his passion, so much so that the essay reveals that the money in the career is not what’s at stake—Derek is more interested in connecting to others with his music.

Sample Scenario 2: Marcella

Marcella is in somewhat of a bind. She (and her parents) want(s) to be a nurse, because of the salary and the benefits, but her entire life, Marcella has been more interested in becoming a professional dancer, specifically mastering the Melbourne shuffle. She writes the essay as a way of exploring how she can manage to keep dance as a viable side job while meeting the educational and career requirements for the nursing program here at K.C.C. She knows she has the passion and skills and knowledge for nursing, but she feels her life cannot be complete unless she tries out for America’s Got Talent, first.

Sample Scenario 3: Joe

Joe honestly tells his teacher and classmates the following: “I have no effin’ clue what I want to do with the rest of my life, but I know that I am good with people and I enjoy skateboarding a lot.” He writes the essay to discuss whether or not becoming a skateboard shaper can be a viable career option for his future.

GETTING STARTED:

Below, can you brainstorm things or hobbies that you are very passionate about?

GETTING STARTED:

Below, can you brainstorm skills or knowledge that you can bring to the table in a given career?

GETTING STARTED:

Complete the discussion: When I was a little kid, I really wanted to become a ________________________ because ...