

RESEARCH: Jobs For You After High School

030 min

Entering the workforce after high school is a great option for many graduates. As you begin your job search, one of the most important things you can do is take the time to think deeply about what kind of role you are looking for. Researching different jobs you're interested in and envisioning your future career can help you set yourself up for success as you enter the workforce.

In this activity, you'll have the opportunity to conduct research on 3 different occupations you might be interested in pursuing after high school and think about the larger context of how these roles can shape your future.

Part I: Pick 3 Occupations

1. Open up the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).
2. Under **Select Occupations By**, select **High school diploma or equivalent** from the 2nd drop down menu. Leave all others the same.
3. Click **Go**.
4. You'll notice that there are hundreds of jobs you can have that require a high school diploma or equivalent. Use the **blue** up/down arrows at the top of each column to sort the listed occupations to fit your interests.
5. When you have narrowed your search, select 3 different occupations you want to research in more detail and write them down in column 1 of the table below.

Part II: Research Your Occupations

Click on each of the individual occupations you chose from your search results. On each occupation page, you'll see different tabs along the top (e.g. Summary, What They Do, Work Environment, etc.) Use these tabs to learn more about different aspects of the occupation and to fill out the table. A few tips:

- Watch the short video in the **Summary** tab
- Use bullet points and short phrases to take notes in the table below

Occupation	What They Do	Work Environment & Work Schedules	How to Become One	Median Annual Wage	Job Outlook
1.					
2.					
3.					

6. Choose one of the occupations from your table and go to its page. Click on the **State & Area Data** tab at the top and then click the link for the exact occupation you are interested in. Use the first three maps (green, red, and blue) and their charts on the page to answer the questions in the table below. Then, repeat these steps for the other two occupations you selected.

Occupation	Which states employ the most people in this occupation? (List top 3)	Which states have the highest concentration of jobs for this occupation? (List top 3)	Which states have the highest wages for this occupation? (List top 3 states and their annual mean wages)
1.			
2.			
3.			

7. What other questions do you have about the occupations you researched?

Part III: What Have You Learned?

8. Take a minute to reflect on the research you conducted and choose **either** option a or b to answer in the box below.
 - a. Which of the three roles do you think is the BEST fit for you? Why? How can you find out more about this role?
 - b. If, through your research, you discovered that none of the roles are a good fit for you, explain why. What about these roles made you realize that they weren't a good fit? What other roles might you want to research next?