

Your Five- Year Plan!

AKA... What the heck am I going to do next?



Victory of the Five-Year Plan! It's a blow against capitalism!

Part of the Honors Junior Seminar, Leading Lives That Matter. The goal is for you to generate a framework you will use to make good decisions for building a rewarding career and way of life.

Assignment overview

This assignment should be around ten pages long! It will take you at least ten hours (stretched over a couple weeks) to complete. There is an additional video presentation of your 5YP. Make sure to look through this assignment, as there are a LOT of moving parts. But each part is rather simple.

This assignment contains two formats of the same information: You'll turn in a text collection (described below) of about 10 pages using your Google Drive (like you've turned in

everything). AND: Based on this text collection, you'll also do a video presentation which will be viewed by three classmates and your instructor.

Video Assignment

The video assignment, which is in lieu of an in-class presentation, is an overview of your **text collection 5YP**. Right? One assignment, two modes, a text-based one, and a video of that text-based report.

Text Collection

It's probably best if you compose it as a collection of shorter Google Docs, with a "table of contents" document containing brief text descriptions and links to other docs. It might look something like this:

1. "In five years, I aspire to..."
2. My (potential) graduate/professional school path
3. My (potential) industry/job path
4. My "alternative" path
5. Informational Interview

The 5YP is *primarily* a practical exercise: It will help you chart the next steps after graduation from Stetson, from the first day after graduation to 1827 days after graduation. What do you have to *do* between now and then? **A good, not perfect, example of a 5YP.**

But it's also meant to be an imaginative exercise... I'm sure you're exactly sure about what exactly you're doing after you graduate. If I had a nickel for every time...

So, just maybe, it's a good idea to have a few Plan Bs.

"In five years, I aspire to..."

Start off with a brief (one-page) aspirational vision of your future life. "In five years, I aspire to..." *In an ideal world*, what will you be doing? How is your career doing? Where will you be living? How will you be feeling? What's your Facebook update read? (I know, I know, people stopped using Facebook in 2018!) Imagine looking at some super-modern version of your smartphone... What will your photos be of?

Be as aspirational as you like, but try to be realistic. You're not going to cure cancer or be president in the next five years. However, there is a chance that you could have earned a Master's degree, or be married with a couple kids, or be living in Djibouti, or be employed as a designer for Ford. So these are great, realistic aspirations.

Once you have defined your dream, you need to turn it into a series of outcomes. Maybe a diagram with the following headings:

- Family/personal life -- married? Single? Committed partner? Etc.
- Work
- Health
- Wealth -- financially stable, probably still scraping by, filthy rich, etc. How much money will you earn? How much will you owe? How much will you save? (Use the I/E reports!)
- Check out this [study](#) on states friendly to your generation: “The millennial experience is not the same everywhere. WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia to determine where this generational has thrived and struggled...”

Anyway, the first step to getting there is figuring out where there is. So, use your imagination, don't be overly realistic (but don't be unrealistic!), and tell me a story about yourself in five years. In a two- to three-hundred words.

Three scenarios... Here are the steps involved in the next five years if I... enter graduate or professional program...

1. [it's harder than you think...](#)
Map out each “actionable” step from this article. Provide concrete dates. Give details... what date are you taking the GRE? What subject test? Who are you going to ask for a letter of reference? THIS MUST BE A PART OF YOUR 5YP!
2. Start with a [Gradschoolmatch](#) search... it only takes 10 minutes to set up an account... Include a bullet-point list with brief descriptions of at least five: Do research on your top FIVE choices. I chose “Anthropology” with an emphasis on biology, medicine, etc... Like [this one](#) at SUNY Binghamton. First, go [here](#) (this selects Binghamton)... now, scroll down a bit and choose Biomedical Anthropology (under B). Under each program, list the [degree requirements](#). Check out the courses offered... which ones would you excel at? What are you going to research for your PhD dissertation/Master's paper? What's the financial aid situation... how much will you need to go into debt? Or do they offer assistance? You can't get into a whole lot of detail, but provide something like an executive summary of your findings. **Personalize this with commentary, reactions, details. Don't just cut and paste! How is it applicable to you, and how do you make yourself the kind of applicant who succeeds!**
3. After the program... What do they say about [“our graduates”](#)? In what industry or field does a graduate with this degree work? Where are the jobs? (Check a site like monster.com). The basic questions I expect you to answer:

- a. How long to complete?
- b. How much will it cost, and how much will attendance increase your debt?
- c. What do you need to do before you enter? (Will you have taken the requisite coursework? What tests do you need to take?)
- d. **What's the starting salary after graduate school?**

go directly into industry/job...

1. Include a bullet-point list with brief (one sentence) descriptions of at least five: What jobs are available, desirable, and open to someone with your degree and experience?
2. You can use Stetson's helpful list, [What Can I Do with This Major?](#)
3. You'll find [this website](#) helpful for employment websites. Stetson's [Hatter Jobs](#) might be useful, too.
4. Include a list: What skills do you have for the workforce? (Here's where you'll want to use those "[transferable skills](#)." In the UK, courses are required to list on their syllabus what transferable skills you'll gain taking the course, [using this rubric](#).)
5. Include: Your CURRENT resume.

something alternative:

1. Chart out, in a brief plan that covers a non-job and non-grad-school possible plan. Why have you chosen this organization or path? What do you seek to learn? What must you do to make it happen? Think in terms of ONE page. Consider any program/organization/path you wish:
 - a. City Year
 - b. Teach for America
 - c. Peace Corps
 - d. Something else? WOOFing? Maybe try to launch your acting career? Write the great American novel in Paris?

Informational interview...

You might have already done this as an earlier assignment... If not, check [here](#). Interview someone, anyone, from one of the fields you identified above (that's career, grad school, alternative...). Call them or meet them and ask them questions... **and provide a one-page report as the final document in your 5YP.**

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