Education pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates

Education pays

Unemployment rate in 2009

- Doctoral degree: 2.5%
- Professional degree: 2.3%
- Master's degree: 3.9%
- Bachelor's degree: 5.2%
- Associate degree: 6.8%
- Some college, no degree: 7.9%
- High school graduate: 9.7%
- Less than a high school diploma: 14.6%
- Average, all workers: 7.9%

Median weekly earnings in 2009

- Doctoral degree: $1,532
- Professional degree: $1,529
- Master's degree: $1,257
- Bachelor's degree: $1,025
- Associate degree: $761
- Some college, no degree: $699
- High school graduate: $626
- Less than a high school diploma: $454
- Average, all workers: $774


Your Future

Achieving an advanced degree, training, or experience takes time. Once you graduate from IRSC with a two-year or four-year degree you will expect to find a career in your field of study. For many, this will be an entry-level position. Within the next five to ten to twenty years, you will find a need to update your skills, training, or education attainment to remain competitive in the work force. You may need additional schooling to advance your career to the next level or to change careers. The purpose of this assignment is for you to think entrepreneurially about your future. Entrepreneurial thinking allows for a degree of daring, initiative, and leadership; in this case in terms of your own life. You will find your chosen career (once you graduate IRSC) in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook. Here you will find information on the nature of the work, projected earnings, job outlook, and education needed. After reading the entry for your career, you should be able to decide on an alternative or related career that will advance your position in life. You might look at the job outlook, advancement, and related occupations sections for ideas. Find a related or alternative career that will improve your life in some meaningful way, for example:

- The career you choose may bring you more prestige
- The career you choose may earn you more money
- The career you choose may offer more flexible work hours to spend with your family
- You may decide to use your time off from your job to earn money in a second (alternative) career
You will then research the related/alternative career. For the course project, you will create an annotated bibliography that cites and describes five of the best Internet resources and database articles on your career. You should use all of the search tools and evaluation criteria you have learned about in this course. It must be submitted to your professor through Angel. The project is worth 40 points.

NOTE: You do not have to write an actual research paper. The project is designed to use the research skills you have learned in this class, and will help you in future classes where you will be writing research papers. Take a look at the sample project as a general guideline for completing your project.

For the course project, you will create an annotated bibliography that cites and describes five of the BEST sources on the related/alternative career path. You should use all of the search tools and evaluation criteria you have learned about in this course. Find five different sources that you think provide the most authoritative information about your career and back up your thesis. Three should be from the free web and two should be from the IRSC Libraries’ databases.

**Scenario**
The terms “teacher burnout” are well known due to the overwhelming work load given to teachers on a daily basis. Teachers in primary and secondary schools have to plan lessons everyday, be upbeat, likable, energized, and enthused to engage students. It is not uncommon for teachers to feel the pressures of stress after a number of years. Primary and secondary teachers often struggle with low pay. The benefits of teaching are the rewards of helping so many young people learn and the vacation days.

You are studying to become a teacher, but you should keep in mind how you will combat the negative aspects of teaching. Perhaps you will have a fun summer job that earns you more money with less stress. Perhaps you plan on applying for National Board Certification which takes a number of years and offers you higher pay and a recognition that you possess the merits sought in fellow teachers. Perhaps you want to receive your Masters degree after a number of years and move on to teach at the college level.

It is helpful to think of your future plans now, so you are constantly moving towards the goal of combating future stress, lack of satisfaction, and lack of money. Saving to go back to school, planning/assessing lessons that you would use to become certified, taking lifeguarding courses to get that fun summer job, etc.

**Keywords**
quality of life, life work balance, burnout, well-being, life satisfaction, stress

- Construct the annotated bibliography as if it were the “Works Cited” or “References” list for a research paper.
Choose a career that relates to your interests. Be careful not to choose a topic that is too broad or too narrow. (Review Lesson 2, Research Strategies, for help on narrowing or broadening a topic.)

Include both the topic AND a thesis statement with your bibliography. Your thesis statement is a problem you’re going to solve using the five sources to back up your position.

Find five different Internet resources (three) and database articles (two) that you think provide the most authoritative information about your topic.

Use the checklist to evaluate all resources retrieved. Describe each of the five resources you have chosen, making sure you address the most important issue(s) on the checklist for each of the five resources. (Review Lesson 6, Evaluating Internet Resources, for help in evaluating your resources.)

Cite each resource using MLA or APA citation format. Pay close attention to the proper placement of punctuation and italics. You will lose points if your material is not cited properly.

Include an annotation under each entry in your list of sources. In other words, briefly describe why you chose that source. Three to four sentences will suffice.

Use the examples in the Sample Project as a general guideline for completing your project. There are examples of documents from organizations, commercial, educational, and government sites. LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE CITATION FORMAT FOR EACH.

Pay attention to grammar, punctuation and spelling when writing your annotations. Points will be deducted for incorrect grammar, capitalization and punctuation.