

RESOURCES

Activity 2

Character Traits and Work

Character Traits and Work

People with different character traits tend to like different kinds of work. Read the following and then consider which character traits describe you best as well as which types of work interest you.

CARING teens might organize a holiday party at a day care center or nursing home, or help new students get acquainted at school. They might babysit or volunteer at a hospital or soup kitchen, or work at a camp or recreational center. Caring for and helping others is important to them.

Good career fields include law enforcement, social work, teaching, therapy, nursing and other health care, dentistry, child care, the clergy, real estate, and veterinary medicine.

DETAIL-ORIENTED teens might serve as treasurer or secretary of a club, edit the school newspaper, or discover a talent for auto repair, computer programming, or organizing large CD collections. These people are able to focus on details and to see how the details fit into larger patterns. If they are interested in a complicated project, they have the patience to break it down into small parts and to do each part carefully. A good summer or volunteer job for them would capitalize on their attention to detail, such as library shelver, carpenter's apprentice, or waitstaff.

Possible careers include librarian, engineer, construction contractor and cost estimator, copy editor, carpenter, insurance underwriter, administrator, computer programmer, court reporter, health and science technician, clerk, secretary, bookkeeper, physicist, and mechanic.

CREATIVE teens might help decorate for a school event, design logos for groups they're involved in, write for the school newspaper, or play in a band. They might find themselves drawing pictures or thinking up lyrics when they should be concentrating on classwork. Summer or volunteer jobs like teaching art at a day camp, working in a museum, painting a mural for a store owner, or interning at a local newspaper can let them use and explore their talents more productively. For creative people, finding a way to express the ideas and images in their imaginations is very important; they often use the arts as outlets. But creative people aren't found only in the arts.

Careers where creativity is prized include architect, commercial artist, musician, composer, dancer, choreographer, photographer, set designer, software developer, writer, editor,

fashion designer, research scientist, chef, interior decorator, actor, director, craftsman, small-business owner, entertainer, landscape architect, and advertising director.

AMBITIOUS teens might organize a committee to get themselves elected to a school office, or take care to have the clothes, friends, and activities of the “in” crowd at school. They might volunteer to help in a local political campaign, think up plans to get rich, or look for chances to meet prominent businesspeople, attorneys, or elected officials. “Looking good,” impressing others, and being well-known are important to them. Ambitious people feel good about themselves when they get public recognition and plenty of money. In contrast, caring people feel good about themselves when they help others; creative people feel good when they can express what’s in their imaginations; and detail-oriented people feel good about doing a complex job carefully and well. Ambitious teens can get started on a career path by interviewing adults in their chosen field and by taking after-school jobs as clerks or cashiers or by volunteering at a local television or radio station.

High-paid, high-status careers such as lawyer, business executive, doctor, politician, banker, real-estate investor, stock broker, movie actor, television newscaster, and advertising and public relations jobs can all satisfy a desire to impress others and make a lot of money. (Of course, people go into these fields for other reasons, too—and not everyone who tries these careers succeeds in getting rich.)

ADVENTUROUS teens might love to travel or try new foods and fashions. They might enjoy planning an exchange between two schools across town (or perhaps across the world!). They might seek summer or volunteer jobs doing something entirely new to them, just to see what it’s like or because it offers a chance to visit new places or meet new people. Fresh ideas and new situations stimulate them—they might even see a potentially dangerous situation as an exciting challenge.

Good career fields include journalism, outdoor recreation and education, archaeology, the travel industry, detective work, airplane piloting or stewarding, sales, museum curating, and firefighting.

FAIR-MINDED teens might get involved with an issue where they can make a difference, such as starting a recycling program, writing an exposé of unjust conditions for their school or community newspaper, or working to protect an endangered species. They might volunteer with Habitat for Humanity or another service program, get training as a peer mediator, become a literacy tutor, or intern at a politician’s or district attorney’s office. Injustice and inequality bother them; they believe in fairness and want to help make the world a better place.

They might consider careers in ecology and conservation, social activism, law, industrial and labor relations, politics, not-for-profit businesses, diplomacy, education, criminal justice, and human services.

Activity 2
Character Traits, Work, and You

Character Traits, Work, and You

Instructions: Write a brief description of each character trait and list some jobs that might suit someone with this trait. (You may add an extra trait if you feel it is important.) Then mark any traits that you believe are part of your own character with an asterisk (*). Which of the jobs for those character traits might interest you?

Caring

Detail-oriented

Creative

Ambitious

Adventurous

Fair

Other

Possible careers for me (from starred traits above)

Activity 2
Occupational Clusters

Occupational Clusters
[From the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015]

Visit <http://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/career-clusters.htm>
for updated and detailed career cluster information

Instructions: Use the Bureau of Labor Statistics website to find information about specific careers that interest you in the following career clusters.

- Agriculture, food, and natural resources
- Architecture and construction
- Arts, audio/video technology, and communications
- Business management and administration
- Education and training
- Finance
- Government and public administration
- Health science
- Hospitality and tourism
- Human services
- Information technology
- Law, public safety, corrections, and security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Transportation, distribution, and logistics