

Career for a Day
Poetry that describes a day in the life of a dream career

Poetry Lesson Plan for High School Grades

Subject areas addressed: Creative writing, Vocational or Career Education Classes, Civics

Objectives:

- Verbalize through the written word facets of careers that are exciting for high school students
- Research skills, education and experience needed for these “dream” careers
- Develop creative thinking skills
- Develop connections between student’s current skills, educational plans and career aspirations – mapping a pathway for a desired career

Activities:

- Focusing on a job rather than a celebrity, ask students to share their thoughts on: *Whose job would you like to have for a day, or as your career?*
- Have students list elements of that job that are attractive to them (beyond the opportunity to earn millions of dollars).
- Choose words and write descriptive phrases for the career chosen.
- Use the teacher’s desired format to compose a poem that describes the dream career for a day and tells why the student has made the selection (s)he did.

Procedures and Ideas:

- As you talk with students about their favored careers for a day ask them the question: *What would take you there?* Discuss how a student could move from dreaming to career goal.
- Discuss career information resources available to students, how they might be used for this assignment and how they can assist students as they move from school or college into careers.
- When making the assignment encourage students to look beyond the expected careers that bring fame & fortune, to careers attuned to their interests and (anticipated) abilities. They may enjoy writing about a career that doesn’t presently exist – but may at some time in the future.
- If opportunities exist within the community for students to shadow an adult in the chosen career, use this lesson and the poetry writing assignment to approach these adults.

- Consider a dream career poetry writing contest that awards a day with the person who is currently living the “dream” career.
- If you pursue shadowing or the contest ideas, be sure to involve the local media in the project.
- And remember that the Anthology of Poetry would love to have poems submitted for consideration in our forum for young writers. Visit www.anthologyofpoetry.com for more information, or to electronically submit individual poems.