

9th Grade Presentation Assignment: Your Post-Graduation Exploration

Objective: This assignment encourages you to begin exploring your options for life after high school. By researching potential academic programs, locations, living situations, and more, you will gain valuable insights into what factors are important to you as you plan for your future. This presentation will allow you to share your initial findings and thought process with your classmates.

Task: Choose one specific post-graduation path to explore. This could be:

- A specific college or university program you are interested in.
- A particular trade school or vocational program.
- A specific branch of the military.

Once you have chosen your path, research it thoroughly using the questions provided below as a guide. You will then create a short presentation (approximately 5-7 minutes) to share your findings with the class. Be prepared to answer questions from your classmates and teacher.

Presentation Guidelines:

- Your presentation should be engaging and informative.
- Use visuals (slides/images) to enhance your presentation.
- Speak clearly and confidently.
- Organize your information logically, addressing **3 of the questions from each section below**
 - Choose 1 academic path to address (college/trade school or military)
- Conclude your presentation by directly addressing the "Big Question."
- Last slide must be a reference slide (List your sources - MLA Citations)

Research Questions (Address the questions most relevant to your chosen post-graduation path):

1a. Academic (Focus primarily on college/university or trade school options)

- Is there a strong program in the field you want to study? What specific courses are offered?
- How current is the technology – wireless internet access, online learning platforms, specialized laboratories/equipment relevant to your field, performance spaces, etc.?
- Are there facilities designed for hands-on learning, labs, studios, or fieldwork?
- Do you need to supply your own tools or materials, or are they provided? Where could you purchase necessary items?
- How often is the curriculum updated to match changes in the field or industry?
- Who are the instructors/faculty? What kind of background and experience do they have in their field?
- What is the student-to-instructor ratio? How might that impact your learning experience?

- What support systems are in place for students who need academic help or have questions (e.g., tutoring, advising)?
- Are there opportunities to visit the program or speak with current students?
- Are there established connections for internships, placements, practical experiences, or further educational opportunities in your area of interest? What is the typical student participation rate in these?
- Are there partnerships with local businesses, organizations, or industries that enhance career preparation?
- Are there opportunities for independent study, research projects, or capstone experiences?
- What is the program's track record for placing graduates in careers or further education within your field?
- How is student performance assessed — exams, projects, practical skills, or other methods?
- Does the program offer opportunities to earn industry-recognized certifications or credentials?
- What is the average length of time it takes students to complete the program?
- Are there opportunities for cross-disciplinary learning (e.g., combining your field with another area of interest)?

1b. Academic (Focus primarily on military option)

- What academic or technical training is required during basic training or initial entry?
- Are there specialized schools or advanced training programs within this branch? What skills do they teach?
- What opportunities are there for earning college credits while serving?
- Does the branch have partnerships with universities or trade schools for continuing education?
- What kinds of certifications or licenses can you earn that transfer to civilian careers?
- Are there language-learning programs available, and how are they structured?
- How are training programs evaluated or updated to keep skills relevant?
- Are there academic opportunities for leadership training and professional development?
- How much flexibility do service members have in choosing their training or educational path?
- What resources are provided for studying and preparing for promotion exams or qualifying tests?

2. The Location (Consider the location of your chosen path)

- What type of location is it (rural, small town, urban)? How does this align with your preferences? Do images of the area match your ideal environment?
- How far away from home is it? Does this align with your ideal situation?
- How accessible is it to shopping and commercial areas?

- Is personal transportation necessary? Is public transportation available? What are the transportation options for accessing essential services and leisure activities? Would you be able to bring your own vehicle?
- Does the location appear well-maintained and safe/How secure is the environment? (Consider online reviews, Google Street View, crime statistics if relevant).
- How far are key facilities (e.g., living quarters to classrooms/workshops/training areas)?
- What is the social atmosphere like? Do people tend to leave on weekends, or are there activities that encourage them to stay?

3. Housing (Focus on residential programs)

- Is housing provided, or would you need to find your own? Is commuting from home a realistic option?
- What do the available housing options look like (e.g., dorm rooms, apartments, shared living spaces)?
- What facilities and amenities are included?
- How are housing assignments made? What options or preferences are considered?
- Do the living spaces appear clean and well-maintained?
- What is the ratio of provided housing to off-site housing options?

4. Food / Meal Plans (Focus on residential programs)

- What types of dining facilities are available?
- How does the meal plan work? What are the costs and flexibility of different meal plan options?
- Are there local restaurants or food options nearby if you choose to eat out?
- Are there any local food specialties or popular student eateries?

5. Activities (Consider extracurriculars, social life, and community)

- Are activities you currently enjoy likely to be available in this new environment?
- Are extracurricular activities a significant part of the culture? Do many people participate? Are there any physical requirements for certain activities? What are you already prepared for, and what might you need to develop?
- If applicable, how do the quality of sports teams, musical organizations, etc., compare to your high school experience? How important is this to you?
- Are there appealing weekend activities for those who remain on-site?
- Is the institution or location known for anything specific (traditions, events, landmarks)?

6. Financial Aid (Focus primarily on post-secondary education)

- What is the tuition or program cost?
- What is the estimated yearly cost of room and board (if applicable)?
- What is the estimated yearly cost of books, supplies, and equipment?
- Are there opportunities for part-time work within the institution or program?

- Is there any form of financial compensation provided for participation (e.g., stipends, grants)?
- What types of scholarships, grants, or financial aid packages are offered? What are the eligibility requirements?
- Are financial aid awards typically renewable for multiple years?

The Big Question:

- Based on your research, can you picture yourself fitting in and being happy in this environment? Explain your reasoning, highlighting specific aspects of your research that contribute to your answer.

Grading: Your presentation will be graded on the thoroughness of your research, the clarity and organization of your presentation, the quality of your visuals, your speaking skills, and your thoughtful response to the "Big Question."

Due Date:

- End of Quarter 2: Completed Slide Deck/Presentation Materials
- End of Quarter 3: Completed Presentation

This assignment is an exciting opportunity to begin thinking critically about your future. Embrace the research process and enjoy sharing your discoveries!

Career Exploration Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Research Quality	Comprehensive and in-depth research; includes various sources and perspectives.	Adequate research includes some sources but lacks depth.	Basic research; limited sources and minimal detail.	Insufficient research; lacks credible sources.
Presentation Skills	Engaging and confident presentation; clear articulation of ideas.	Good presentation; mostly clear but may lack engagement.	Fair presentation; unclear at times or lacks confidence.	Poor presentation; difficult to follow or understand.
Post Graduation Insight	Provides deep insight into the post secondary plans; discusses requirements, responsibilities, and future trends.	Good insight into the post secondary plans; covers most key aspects.	Limited insight; misses important details about the post secondary plans.	Little to no insight provided; lacks understanding of the post secondary plans.
Creativity and Visuals	Highly creative; uses visuals effectively to enhance understanding; minimal text ensures clarity and focus on key points.	Some creativity; visuals are used but may have excessive text that detracts from the overall message.	Limited creativity; visuals are present but contain too much text, making it difficult to follow.	Lacks creativity; no visuals or poorly designed visuals with excessive text that overwhelms the audience.

Engagement and Interaction	Engages the audience with questions or discussions; encourages participation and effectively answers questions from both teachers and students.	Some engagement; audience participation is encouraged but responses to questions may lack depth or clarity.	Minimal audience engagement; few opportunities for participation and limited responses to questions.	No engagement; audience is not involved and does not answer questions from teachers or students.
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Total Points: _ / 20

***Pass = 13 points or above**

Comments:
