**Career Exploration Paper - Introduction**

**Mission Statement**:

The purpose of this assignment is to begin an in depth analysis of a specific career that you are interested in for your own future. This portion will serve as the introduction to a semester long research paper. Take the career surveys seriously and answer honestly because you are going to be working on the career cluster you select over the next few months.

**Directions**:

This introduction is going to have four sections. Each section is its own paragraph. In each section, include the required information. Write in complete sentences. Be careful to write a smooth paper that doesn’t just sound like you are answering the questions below. Make it flow through the sections easily.

**I.Dreams** - This paragraph is an introduction to you. Think back to when you were younger.

* What are some of the jobs that you have thought about having in your past?
* Describe the one job that was the most important to you growing up.
  + Describe what you thought they do
  + Describe why you were so interested in this job
* Are you still interested in this job? Is this job still a realistic option for you?

**II. Career Cruising ILP**: careercruising.com/ilp

* Under **My Progress** go to **My Saved Clusters**
  + Read the 16 career clusters that are offered
  + Select two or three that interest you the most
  + Why did you select those career clusters?
* Under **My Progress** go to **My Saved Careers**
  + What careers do you have saved in your ILP?
  + Do the careers that you have saved match the Clusters that you identified?
    - If not, what career cluster does the job fit in and why do you think you didn’t select it before?
* Describe taking the Career Cruising survey
  + Do you think that the results truly matched your interests and provided you with realistic careers?

**III. O\*NET Interest Survey**: mynextmove.org/explore/ip

* Analyse the results of the **Interest Profiler**
  + Which category/categories of the six did you score the highest (realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising, and conventional)
  + Describe the characteristics that they suggest you have. Do you feel that these results are accurate? Why/Why not?
* Career suggestions
  + How much preparation you are willing to put into your career (**Job Zones**)
  + What are the top careers that they suggest?
  + Which ones are you the most interested in?
* Do you think that the results truly matched your interests and provided you with realistic careers?

**IV. Conclusion**- comparing the three sections

* Can you identify similarities and/or differences between the results of these activities?
* Which of the surveys was most helpful and insightful (Career Cruising or O\*NET)?
* Moving forward, what general clusters or specific careers are you interested in exploring