

Research Questions List

The following is a list of research questions, the answers to which will begin to put the career role you are considering into focus. Read these questions now; then refer to them throughout the course of your research. *Do not attempt to write final answers to these questions until you have done the Internet/library, interview, and firsthand experience sections that follow.*

Does the career role you have imagined already exist in the real world? _____

If the answer is yes, proceed to the next question. If the answer is no, what career roles are closest to the one you have envisioned? Pick one.

How well will this career fit with your mission and work-purpose statements? That is, at what level of depth and breadth will it allow you to pursue your life's work?

Who do people in this field serve on a day-to-day basis?

How well do your talents and interests match with what is required in this field?

What values do people in this field generally adhere to? How well do they match with yours?

What do people in this career role actually do in the course of a day?

What skills do they rely upon most?

What generally are their working conditions (environment, independence, etc.)?

What kind of training is required to work in this field?

What additional credentials enhance a person's credibility in this field?

Is there any area of the country where people who do this are especially concentrated? If so, where? (For example: movies and popular music/Los Angeles; theater, dance, music/New York; national politics/Washington, D.C.) If this applies, are you prepared to move there?

Who are the leading figures, companies, organizations, and/or institutions in this field?

How much do people in this field generally earn?

Entry level _____ Intermediate or average _____ Top level _____

What professional, trade, union, or other organizations do people in this field generally belong to?

Generally, what is the social status of people who are involved in this field? How are they viewed by others in the community?

What are the positive aspects of how these individuals are perceived?

What are the negative aspects? _____

What kind of lifestyle do people in this profession generally uphold? (Journalists travel and drink a lot. New York executives are traditional and formal; California executives, more casual.)

What is the current market demand for this career? What are its prospects for the future? (Latin teachers are no longer in high demand.)

What hours, generally, do people in this field work? (It's not uncommon for people in high levels of government to work seventy-hour weeks or for beginning entrepreneurs to work fifty, sixty, or more.)

What personal and family sacrifices do people in this field generally make? (For example, many female executives are not married.)

How is the game played in this field, that is, what does it take to get to the top of it?

Review this list carefully, and write down any additional questions that seem important to you. These additional questions may occur to you immediately, while you are engaged in the process of doing your research, or once you have completed your initial research. If the question is important to you, write it down and find out the answer!



Web and Book Resources

Find an example of a completed "Research Questions List" @ Empoweryou.com.

